

Israelis charged with killing Palestinian released

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jerusalem court ordered the release on bail Wednesday of three ultra-orthodox Jewish youths accused of killing an elderly Palestinian service station attendant, court sources said. The trio and a fourth youth are accused of killing the 67-year-old Palestinian a week ago when he tried to prevent them from leaving his East Jerusalem service station without paying for a tank of gas. The Palestinian grabbed the Israeli's car but they refused to stop, dragging him several hundred metres and eventually crushing his body against a parked car. The fourth suspect, who was driving the car, remained in custody and was due to be heard by the judge later this week. The three others were released on bail of \$6,000 each and ordered not to leave the country until the end of their trial, the sources said.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

South Lebanon truce committee meets amid tension

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring the uneasy truce in South Lebanon met here Wednesday amid a surge in violence in the region which has left 10 people dead and nearly 50 wounded since Monday. The five-nation truce committee convened at 3:10 p.m. at the headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping forces in this border town, officials said. The panel — made up of representatives from Lebanon, Israel, Syria, France and the U.S. — was due to discuss complaints by Lebanon and Israel of truce violations. Ten Lebanese civilians have been killed and 47 wounded in violence since Monday in southern Lebanon, where Israel controls a self-declared "security zone." (See story on this page)

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Over Israeli protests, Arafat holds 'national unity' talks

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Brushing aside Israeli protests, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat held a "national unity" meeting Wednesday with opposition leaders, including Islamic militants who back terror attacks against Israel.

Mr. Arafat addressed the assembly of all Palestinian political factions, including the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and Islamic Jihad which have claimed responsibility for most major anti-Israeli attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has blamed Hamas for a July 30 double suicide bombing in Jerusalem that killed 16 people and insists Mr. Arafat dismantle the group's military network and arrest scores of its leaders.

But Mr. Arafat has refused to transfer the remainder or lift a blockade of the Palestinian territories imposed in the wake of the Jerusalem bombing.

General Moshe Yaalon, head of Israeli military intelligence, accused Mr. Arafat of using the dialogue meeting to "close ranks" with the opposition and plan "spontaneous popular violence" against Israel.

"Despite the Oslo [self-rule] agreements, Mr. Arafat has not forgone violence and terrorism as a legitimate means to achieve Palestinian national goals," Mr. Yaalon told a parliament committee Tuesday, quoted by the Israeli press.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have never recognised Mr. Arafat's peace deals with Israel and seek to create an Islamic state in all of historic Palestine. Both have said "military operations" including suicide bombings, are the only way to end Israeli occupation.

Mr. Arafat has tried in past reconciliation talks with Hamas and Islamic Jihad to convince them to refrain from attacks which the PNA.

Heading into Wednesday's meeting, Hamas and Islamic Jihad officials praised Mr. Arafat for refraining from a crackdown against them but demanded he take the further step of releasing their

it imposed on the self-rule authority after the July 30 bombing.

"This is completely the opposite of what they should be doing. Instead of dismantling the terrorist groups they are trying to placate them," David Bar-Ilan, Mr. Netanyahu's media adviser, told Agence France Presse.

"You cannot placate and appease terrorist groups," he said.

"It will be less than tempting now to release the rest of the funds," he said, referring to tax monies and custom duties which Mr. Netanyahu has refused to hand over to the PNA. Israel earlier this week handed over 30 per cent of some \$45 million which it owes to the cash-strapped PNA.

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Majali says Israeli measures serve only enemies of peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Wednesday that the closure and siege imposed on Palestinian people can only lead to further tension and serve the purpose of the enemies of peace.

Speaking during a meeting with the visiting international peace delegation grouping American congressmen and a deputy in the Russian parliament as well as prominent personalities from the U.S., Canada, Russia and Israel, Dr. Majali said the Israeli practices and the unjustified economic sanctions against the Palestinians have led to an increase in the rates of unemployment among Palestinians and deprived them of their right to work.

The prime minister said: "The siege against the people is not in the interest of anyone," adding that "it is unreasonable to impose punishment on the whole Palestinian nation after every incident," noting that "the identity of the perpetrators of the

Jerusalem blast has not yet been established."

Referring to Jordan's position, Dr. Majali said that the Kingdom does not spare any effort in its drive to support the peace process by all possible means.

"The present peace opportunity should not be missed and the enemies of peace should not be allowed to ruin it," said the prime minister.

Referring to His Majesty King Hussein's tireless efforts, the prime minister said: "In war, one could lose or win but in peace everybody is a winner."

A spokesman for the visiting delegation voiced support for Jordan's peace efforts, stressing that the Kingdom should receive economic support in appreciation of its role.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani and Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki.

militants held in PNA prisons.

But last Friday, Palestinian security services rearrested 10 Hamas members who the self-rule attorney general had ordered released the same day after more than a year in prison for lack of

evidence against them.

The PNA's top prison official and his deputy were also put under house arrest in punishment for following the attorney general's orders, a human rights group said Wednesday.

Egypt gives PNA \$10 million

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday pledged \$10 million to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to help ease the hardships caused by an Israeli blockade.

Mr. Mubarak told Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in a telephone conversation that he was "exerting efforts to ease the financial crisis facing the PNA and the people."

Al-Jumhuriyah newspaper said in its early Wednesday edition.

The newspaper did not say if Mr. Mubarak was giving \$10 million as a loan or a grant but it said the president ordered the funds to be transferred immediately.

It quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying the money will "ease the basic requirements for the Palestinian people until the ban imposed by the Israeli government on the money due to the PNA is lifted."

Thneibat calls on Jerusalem conference to liberate Holy City through holy jihad

Conference to produce 'popular charter' to defend Arab, Muslim identity of Jerusalem

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants from Arab and Muslim countries Wednesday started their "Popular Conference on Jerusalem" to defend the Arab and Muslim identity of the Holy City and to stop Israeli measures to Judaize it.

Ishaq Farhan, head of the steering committee that supervised the organisation of the two-day conference, told more than 2,000 participants that the objective of the conference is to come up with a "popular charter" to liberate Jerusalem.

Dr. Farhan lashed out at Arab governments that have signed peace treaties with Israel and failed to safeguard Arab and Muslim rights and put an end to Israeli settlement policies in Jerusalem.

"Our conference coincides with [Israel's] declaration of Jerusalem as its unified and eternal capital and at a time where the failure of peace treaties is visible to everybody," Dr. Farhan said.

"We hope that a popular Arab, Muslim and international committee would emerge from this meeting to work to put an end to enemy plans," Dr. Farhan added.

Among the several proposals to be included in the Jerusalem Charter is "the liberation of Palestine... is a holy duty for all Arabs and Muslims... and all efforts should be exerted to fulfil this goal."

"Palestine is a Muslim and Arab land and all changes and Judaisation that have occurred following the Israeli occupation are void... these changes should be resisted and removed," the proposed four-page charter said.

The charter calls for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees to the British-mandate Palestine "who



George Habash (seated), leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) shakes hands with participants at the Popular Conference for Jerusalem on Wednesday. Mr. Habash has so far refused to leave Damascus for Palestinian National Authority controlled areas and continues to take a hard stand against the peace process (Photo by Youssef Allan)

were forced to leave their homeland through massacres, wars, occupation... that were committed by the Zionist terrorist organisations."

The proposed charter lashed out at peace treaties signed with Israel and considers them a "threat" to Arab rights "legitimacy to the [Israeli] aggression and occupation of Jerusalem and Palestine."

The leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, Abdul Majid Thneibat, called on participants to revive the "jihad" or holy war against Israel to liberate Jerusalem.

Mr. Thneibat stressed that the conflict between Arabs and Muslims on the one hand and Israel on the other is not "political or economic" but a conflict of the "existence."

Head of Professional Unions Council Hussein Mjall said the religious, national and legal laws give Arabs the right to fight against "those who are occupying our lands"

whether inside or outside Israel.

The participants of the meeting represent a wide-range of non-governmental organisations, political parties, Islamic movements and professional unions in different Arab countries.

Among the participants are the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Organisers told the Jordan Times that security agencies have banned several participants and denied them access to attend the conference.

Among those who were banned Abdul Aziz Rantisi, Hamas spokesman in the Gaza Strip, Ahmad Bahar, head of the Al Khalas (Salvation) Party in Gaza and several Hamas members in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the sources, who asked not to be named, said.

They added that Hujjat Al

Islam Taskhiri, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command Ahmad Jibril, the Imam of Jerusalem Mosque Hamid Bitawi were among those who were not allowed into the country.

The list includes Ra'ed Salah, head of the Islamic Movement in Israel, who obtained a visa from the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv but denied permission to enter Jordan at Sheikh Hussein Bridge on Tuesday.

Mr. Salah sent a message, which was made available to the Jordan Times, to Jordan's ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai, protesting the Jordanian decision to prevent him from entering the Kingdom.

The PFLP secretary general George Habash told reporters that he hopes the conference "will fulfil all slogans and proposals with actions" adding that he believes that "all possible means should be used to liberate Jerusalem."

No link yet between suicide bombs and Hamas — press

TEL AVIV (AFP) — New "comparisons" of explosives used in last month's double suicide bombing in Jerusalem with bomb materials discovered in the West Bank have failed to establish a link between the attack and Palestinian radicals, Israeli newspapers reported Wednesday.

Israeli and Palestinian police Tuesday detonated dozens of kilograms of explosives, discovered last month in a bomb laboratory run by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) near Bethlehem.

The test, conducted in the presence of a CIA official, was designed to find similarities between the Hamas explosives and the bombs set off in Jerusalem by two still unidentified men.

The Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot reported Wednesday that the explosives appeared not to be identical, although another Israeli paper, Haaretz, had reported to the contrary quoting "security officials" Tuesday.

Israel insists that, despite its failure to so far identify the Jerusalem bombers, the attack was carried out with the help of Hamas members active in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

According to Israeli Radio, Ami Ayalon, head of Israel's Domestic Intelligence Service Shin Bet, met Monday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to present Israel's position on the bombing.

Israeli press reports say Mr. Ayalon has concluded that the Jerusalem bombers probably came from abroad, possibly using forged British passports, but then received their bombs and instructions from Hamas in the West Bank or Arab east Jerusalem.

Israel launches limited 'warning' strikes in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli warplanes attacked Lebanon Wednesday in what the military termed a limited "warning" to the Beirut government and Islamic guerrillas following a rocket attack on northern Israel.

The raids first targeted a base of the Shiite Muslim militia Hizbollah, then a location near a Lebanese army position in the south of the country and finally a high-tension power line near the port city of Sidon, an army spokesman said.

Four civilians were reported wounded when the Hizbollah bases in the east of the country were raided by two warplanes in retaliation for a major Hizbollah rocket attack into northern Israel, Tuesday.

The army said the air raid that destroyed an electricity pylon was "a warning to the Lebanese government that it must curb the actions of Hizbollah and stop rocket attacks against Israel."

pied buffer zone of south Lebanon earlier this week, he said.

The attacks were seen in Israel as a relatively low-key response to Tuesday's rocket fire, designed to send a message to the Lebanese government and Hizbollah without sparking a new escalation of the fighting.

But Israeli officials warned that further attacks on Israel by Hizbollah would be dealt with severely.

Hizbollah, which spearheads resistance to the occupation of south Lebanon by Israel and its allied South Lebanon Army (SLA), fired some 50 rockets into northern Israel Tuesday in the biggest such attack since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in June 1996. One Israeli was slightly wounded by the rockets.

Hizbollah said the attack was retaliation for shelling by the SLA Monday of Sidon which killed six civilians and wounded nearly 40. The Lebanese army also shelled SLA positions in the buffer zone in response to the Sidon



Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri discusses violence in south Lebanon with reporters on Wednesday after Israeli warplanes launched three air raids on Lebanon (Reuters photo)

attack.

Israel said the SLA attack on Sidon was itself retaliation for a Hizbollah roadside bomb which killed two teenage children of a former SLA commander.

Lebanon.

The flare-up has confronted Mr. Netanyahu for the first time with the danger of the kind of major escalation in Lebanon which helped undermine his Labour predecessor Shimon Peres.

Mr. Peres damaged his reputation as a peacemaker by responding to a wave of

Hizbollah rocket attacks in early 1996 by launching a vast air and artillery offensive in Lebanon baptised Grapes of Wrath.

The operation targeted Hizbollah positions and Lebanese infrastructure in a bid to force the government in Beirut and its Syrian sponsors to rein in the Islamist guerrillas.

But the action plunged off track when Israeli artillery shells slammed into a U.N. compound holding refugees from the fighting, killing some 100 civilians.

The conflict ended with a U.S.-brokered truce agreement prohibiting attacks on civilians by all sides, but in the end contributed to Mr. Peres' election defeat by Mr. Netanyahu the following month.

A five-nation committee set up to monitor that truce was due to meet later Wednesday in the south Lebanon buffer zone to hear Lebanese and Israeli complaints over the latest attacks on civilians.

Mr. Netanyahu has so far resisted calls from hardliners in his government for harsh retaliation, according

to Israeli press reports.

Ariel Sharon, the fiercest hawk in government, took the lead in demanding Israeli warplanes strike "strategic objectives" deep in Lebanon, the Maariv newspaper reported.

Mr. Sharon's proposal, put to a meeting of senior ministers and military commanders Tuesday, drew an initially positive response from Mr. Netanyahu but was strongly opposed by army chiefs and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, it said.

Opponents argued that restraint was warranted because little damage was caused by the rockets, the SLA shelling of Sidon provided Hizbollah with a pretext for its attack and a major escalation of fighting would do severe damage to the tourism-based economy of northern Israel, Maariv said.

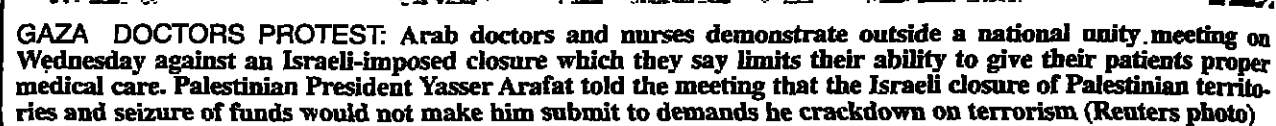
Northern Israel meanwhile returned to a semblance of normality with local officials launching a general strike to protest the government's failure to provide some \$300 million in aid promised after Grapes of Wrath.

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and threatened to kill them with their loaded guns. After releasing Mr. Renim, who snubbed to the road where he was picked up by passers-by and taken to the hospital, they tortured Mr. Moussa, "with an intent to maim or cripple" him, the indictment said.

After the attacks, the policemen tried to wipe out their jeep tracks and burn the documents they had taken from the victims to prevent their use as evidence, the indictment said.

Two other border policemen caught on videotape beating Palestinians were sentenced last week to eight months in jail.



CAIRO (AFP) — Libya has agreed on measures to ease conditions for Palestinian workers on its territory, a senior Palestinian official said in statements published Wednesday by the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram.

Zakaria Agba made the remarks in an interview published after a visit last week to Libya to mend fences between Tripoli and Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"An agreement was reached with the Libyan authorities to end the problems of Palestinians in Libya," Mr. Agba, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) executive committee, told Al-Ahram.

"The Libyan leadership ordered the return of all the Palestinians to their jobs with the same conditions they enjoyed before their expulsion from Libya and agreed to ease the entry and exit from Libya of Palestinians," he said.

Mr. Agba also reported that Libya agreed to scrap school and university fees for Palestinians and grant them free health care, he said.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, one of Israel's most implacable foes, broke off ties with Mr. Arafat and expelled thousands of Palestinian workers from Libya in an angry reaction to the 1993 peace agreement the PLO signed with Israel.

Agba was accompanied on his one-week visit to Libya by officials from the PNA's health, education, interior and finance ministries.

The Palestinian official said another meeting would be held between the two sides in November ahead of a planned visit to Libya by Mr. Arafat.

DUBAI (AFP) — The Iraqi military has sent reinforcements to two southern provinces near Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, a Shiite Muslim Iraqi opposition group said Wednesday.

The Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement received in Nicosia that Iraqi President "Saddam Hussein sent reinforcements to Basra and Nassiriyah provinces near the borders with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from Aug. 2."

Libya to recruit 900 Iraqi teachers

The date is the anniversary of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. SAIRI, which cited "reliable sources in Iraq," said several officials who played important roles in the August 1990-February 1991 invasion and occupation of Kuwait have been named by the Iraqi president to new posts of responsibility in the two provinces.

SAIRI said Mr. Saddam named his cousin and former Interior Minister Ali Hassan Al Majid as military governor and ruling Ba'ath Party official for the two provinces.

Mr. Saddam appointed former chief of staff Iyad Faith Al Rawi as governor of Nassiriya, and Mr. Majid's brother Hashem became Basra governor. The statement did not give reasons for the appointments. The two provinces and other Shiite-majority areas in the southern and central parts of the country rebelled against the central power in spring 1991 after Iraq was driven out of Kuwait by allied forces.

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Libya plans to recruit 900 new Iraqi teachers, the official Al Jumhuyiyah daily reported Wednesday, quoting a Libyan education official visiting Baghdad. Abdul Razak Mohammed Al Faqih, chairman of the Libyan recruitment committee, told the paper Libya wanted 900 Iraqi teachers, including 382 for higher education. Hundreds of Iraqi teachers have found jobs in Libya in recent years, and several hundred others are currently employed in Yemen, Sudan and Jordan. Iraq and Libya, which are both under U.N. sanctions, signed an agreement in October last year to boost cultural, educational and scientific cooperation.

5 killed in suspected Islamist militant attack

CAIRO (AFP) — Five people were killed and eight others were wounded when they came under fire from suspected Islamist militants near Assiut in southern Egypt, police said early Wednesday. Four of the dead were policemen who also accounted for six of those wounded in the attack.

Man beheads daughter to save 'family honour'

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian man has beheaded his unmarried 25-year-old daughter who “dishonoured” him by taking off from home to spend a week with a male friend in a beach resort, the government press reported Wednesday. The 44-year-old man sliced off his daughter’s head with a butcher’s knife Tuesday at her boyfriend’s home in Matariyah, an impoverished district in northern Cairo, newspapers said. The unidentified woman had left home without her parent’s knowledge and

spent a week with her boyfriend at Al Arish resort. The father killed his daughter after learning that the pair had not married during their holiday and despite suggestions by the father of the boyfriend that they could call a Muslim cleric to seal a marriage contract. The press said he did it to save the family honour. Police arrested the man.

Man 'cries to death' at parents' graveside

CAIRO (AFP) — A 40-year-old Egyptian man unable to accept the death of his parents cried himself to death at their graveside, the government daily Al Akhbar reported Wednesday. Mohammad Saeed Shafiq suffered from chronic depression after losing his mother and father and visited their graveside daily in a Cairo cemetery, where witnesses said he would cry for hours unabated, the daily said. During a recent visit to the cemetery Shafiq cried on and on until he dropped dead from grief.

Somali warlord to hold talks with U.N. envoy

NAIROBI (AFP) — Somali warlord Hussein Mohammad Aided has arrived here for talks with U.N. special envoy to Somalia Ismail Kitiani on the Somali peace process. Mr. Kitiani, a special envoy of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, was also due to arrive in the Kenyan capital Wednesday following Mr. Aided's arrival late Tuesday. The 35-year-old Aided, who was accompanied by two of his ministers, maintains that he is the "legitimate president" of Somalia, and was expected to hold his first meeting with Mr. Kitiani Wednesday afternoon. The talks are expected to centre on the Somali reconciliation conference planned to take place in Bossaso in northeast Somalia.

21:20Larnaca (RJ)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Water and Sewerage Complaints897467

Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-33200	

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Russeini Medical Centre
.....813813/32

Khalidi Maternity,644281/6

Akileh Maternity,642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:05	_____Sanaa (RJ)
09:45	_____New Delhi (RJ)
10:05	_____Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:05	_____Bombay (RJ)
10:20	_____Bahrain (RJ)
10:25	_____Beirut (RJ)
10:40	_____Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00	_____Colombo (RJ)
15:25	_____Kuwait (RJ)
15:55	_____New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:05	_____Moscow (RJ)
17:30	_____London (RJ)
18:55	_____Doha (RJ)
19:20	_____Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:10	_____Athens (RJ)
20:15	_____Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
00:45	_____Muscat (add) (RJ)
05:15	_____Muscat (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
 13:00 Riyadh (SV)
 13:55 Doha (GF)
 14:00 Kiev (add) (6U)
 14:40 Sharjah (AH)
 16:00 Rome (AZ)

21:30 Muscat (add) (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:25 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
01:45 Madrid (RJ)
03:30 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

04:00	Athens (OA)
06:15	Istanbul (TK)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
08:50	Amsterdam (GA)
09:10	London (BA)
14:30	Riyadh (SV)
14:45	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00	Kiev (add) (GU)

15:30	Annaba (Algeria) (AH)
17:00	Rome (AZ)
21:10	Tel Aviv (LY)
22:00	Cairo (MS)
02:30	Amsterdam (KL)
06:45	Beirut (ME)
10:00	Dubai (EK)
10:25	London (BA)

Royal Wings
(For Thursday and Friday)
07:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
09:15 Aqaba (RW)
10:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45 Amman (Marka Airport)
(RW)
18:55 Tel Aviv (RW)
21:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:50 Aqaba (RW)

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8pm.

Premier issues directives to accelerate work on tourist sites

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdullah Salam Majali Wednesday instructed the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to accelerate work on both the Aqaba mineral springs and spa as well as the Dana district in the governorate of Tafleeh.

These areas are badly in need of infrastructure services in order to attract visitors from both Jordan and abroad, he said.

During a visit to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Dr. Majali described tourism as forming part of the Kingdom's wealth.

He deemed modernisation of tourist facilities and services obligatory that tourism might continue to steadily contribute to national development.

development.

Before Jordan marks its tourist and archaeological sites, it must train workers and promote tourist services, the premier asserted.

Modernisation and service improvements can also be reflected in the behaviour of Jordanians towards tourists, he added.

Emphasising the need for decentralisation in the tourist sector, the prime minister suggested that the ministry divide Jordan into northern, central, and southern regions to cater to each area's individual needs.

During the visit, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji summarised his ministry's programmes to stimulate tourism and

promote the Kingdom abroad.

He stated that the ministry has closely cooperated with the private sector, including hotels, travel agencies, rest houses, restaurants and souvenir shops.

According to Mr. Biltaji, work is underway for the development of the said mineral springs and spa at Aqaba, which project, he said, will cost JD 150,000 to complete.

Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour, joined by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani, accompanied the premier on his visit.

Jordanian, French consortium to increase capacity of waste water treatment plant

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Wednesday awarded a consortium of Jordanian and French firms a JD 4.6 million contract to expand the waste water treatment plant at Baqa'a, north of Amman.

The project should be completed by the end of 1997.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin, representatives of the French SICA firm and the Jordanian Concord Company, signed the contract which will raise the plant's capacity of a daily 6,000 cubic metres of water to 14,900 cubic metres per diem.

The project, estimated to meet the needs of the estimated 198,500 residents of the Baqa'a area until the year 2010, will remove a reported bad odour through the installation of biochemical units.

It will also improve the quality of treated water to



Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin, representatives of the French SICA firm, and the Jordanian Concord Company Wednesday sign a contract stipulating the expansion of the waste water treatment plant at Baqa'a (Petra photo)

cater to Jordanian specifications and standards.

Of the total estimated project costs, JD 2.2 mil-

lion will be allocated from the state treasury and the rest from France, as provided for in a Jordanian-

French protocol. The French will supply electro-mechanical and other types of equipment.

UNRWA to convene assembly for 1997 budgetary discussions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees, and donor nations providing financial assistance to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), are due to jointly convene in Amman on Sept. 9.

UNRWA is the organisation officially responsible for the care of Palestinian refugees.

The group is slated to discuss recent developments in the agency's endeavour to raise funds in order to offset an estimated \$26 million deficit in the agency's 1997 fiscal budget.

A previous assembly convened last June, focusing on procuring funds to maintain social, educational and health services to an estimated 3.4 million refugees.

During the June meeting, donors extended \$4.1 million to the agency's 1997 \$352 million budget, however, the agency is still in want of \$26 million, according to official sources.

These said that Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will be participating in the September meeting.

UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen Tuesday met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza to brief him on the critical financial situation facing the agency.

"Unfortunately, I am compelled to introduce cuts and reductions [due to both] the inadequate financing of UNRWA's budget and the deficit [incurred] for the last quarter of 1997," Mr. Hansen was quoted as saying to President Arafat.

The commissioner general has periodically underlined severe financial constraints facing UNRWA to major donors, host governments and the PNA.

In June, HRH Crown Prince Hassan told an assembly that UNRWA must be helped to continue to provide services to refugees until a definitive solution has been found for the refugee problem.

Assistance extended by Jordan and the UNRWA to the refugees is not a substitute for their right of return or compensation, Prince Hassan maintained.

The Prince affirmed that the Kingdom, which hosts 41 per cent of the total Palestinian refugees in the diaspora, spends approximately \$300 million annually on the refugees — a sum, he said, which is almost equivalent to UNRWA's annual budget.

Last March, Mr. Hansen toured Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and also visited a number of European donor nations in order to raise funds for the agency.

Dispute flares regarding boycott declaration

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An acrimonious dispute, involving mutual exchanges of political irresponsibility, flared yesterday between independent opposition figures and the National Constitutional Party (NCP).

While the pro-government NCP blasted a declaration, issued earlier this week by approximately 100 independent personalities advocating a boycott of the upcoming general elections, the signatories responded with accusations that the government and its supporters are attempting to divide the mainly Islamic opposition.

Two meetings this week between the government and opposition group representatives ended with no visible results and time is running out on the government's attempts to persuade opposition groups to rescind their boycott of the Nov. 4 elections.

Subsequent to these assemblies, the NCP accused the prominent signatories of Monday's declaration of deliberately timing the publication of their statement to frustrate Prime Minister Abdullah Salam Majali's attempts to initiate a constructive dialogue with the opposition.

The declaration was timed to coincide with the start of the dialogue, and was intended by the signatories to encourage those political parties which have declared their intention to boycott elections, according to a cover story of Al Nadha weekly, the NCP mouthpiece, Tuesday.

Describing the declaration as directed towards "the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), rather than to the government," Al Nadha maintained that the statement was motivated by the "fear that the Muslim Brotherhood might rescind its decision to boycott."

"This declaration does not help in

laying a foundation for dialogue, which the majority of the signatories themselves have been demanding, and it aims at forcing the IAF and the Muslim Brotherhood to adopt a stand which does not even require a minimum level of responsibility (that) those working in political parties (should shoulder)," the newspaper added, citing an unnamed NCP leader.

"This is not true," responded political activist Labib Kamhawi, whose name appeared on the declaration together with those of former prime ministers Ahmad Obaidat and Taher Masri, and other prominent professionals and politicians.

"Our declaration is addressed to the government and aims at emphasising that the boycott decision is not the Muslim Brotherhood's only, but reflects the general feeling of the people," Dr. Kamhawi maintained.

He stressed that the statement "was not a tactical move, but a strategic choice."

Brushing aside the weekly's allegations, Mr. Obaidat briefly commented that "everybody knows that Al Nadha is not an independent publication," and asserted that he would elaborate on the issue at a later stage.

Reiterating that the declaration was "not meant to obligate anybody," Dr. Kamhawi accused the government of "applying pressure to the Muslim Brotherhood in order to split the movement."

"The government has no intention of effecting real change... it is instead attempting to break the backbone of the opposition," Dr. Kamhawi said.

In their statement, these independent persons declared their intention to boycott the elections "in both nominations and voting," citing the one-person, one-vote electoral system and mid-May controversial amendments to the Press and Publications Law as the main impetus for their decision.

"The Constitution and the law have become tools in the hands of any government to be used as a basis for arbitrary action and imposing increased restrictions, especially with the backward Press and Publications law," read the independent personalities' statement.

They described the one-person, one-vote system as "turning the parliamentary system into a form of disguised tyranny."

"With all due respect for the individuals who signed this declaration — and there are many with whom I share a long-standing friendship — we in the NCP, though totally respecting their views and right to air opinions concerning national issues, totally disagree with the justifications they have given for the boycott," NCP Deputy Secretary General for Information Affairs Hakim Khair told the Jordan Times.

"We simply believe that electoral participation is a sacred duty of all citizens," he maintained. "We in the NCP have some points of contention with the government, too; but we think that disagreements on national issues should be dealt with on the basis of dialogue and not confrontation."

Although endorsing Al Nadha's assertion that the signatories intended to urge the Islamists to persist in their decision to boycott, Mr. Khair denied that the declaration would affect the course of future negotiations between the government and opposition.

"The signatories do not really represent any political party in the country," Mr. Khair stated. "They represent themselves as intellectuals or previous public figures."

"I do not think that this declaration will have any impact on current attempts [to initiate a] dialogue between the Muslim Brotherhood and the government," he concluded.

Court overturns extradition ruling

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Court of Cassation Tuesday reversed earlier rulings of the Amman Magistrate Court and the Court of Appeals to extradite a Jordanian citizen to Iraq in response to an official Iraqi request.

The Iraqi government has requested that the Kingdom extradite Khaled Abdullah Abdul Salam on charges of embezzlement.

Mr. Abdul Salam worked in Iraq for almost 15 years, before returning to Jordan. Subsequent to his return to the Kingdom, he left for France, in which place he currently resides.

Led by Justice Mohammad Raqqad, the Court of Cassation described the Court of Appeals verdict as based on Article 40 of the

Riyadh Mandate on Judicial Cooperation, which Jordan's Parliament has not yet endorsed.

In its rejection of the previous rulings, the Court of Cassation stated that agreements, covering extradition procedures between Jordan and other countries, directly impact the public and private rights of Jordanian citizens as outlined in Article 33 of the Constitution.

Extradition procedures will not be effected until endorsed by Parliament, it added.

"As the Court of Appeals based its ruling on the provisions of an international judiciary agreement, not currently enforced in Jordan, it has violated the provisions of the law," the ruling concluded.

Heritage committee presents report

AMMAN (Petra) — A central committee, preparing the First Jordanian Conference on the Preservation of Architectural Heritage, Wednesday presented a report to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan on work heretofore completed for the event.

The conference is scheduled to convene from Sept. 15 to 17.

Subcommittees involved in preparatory procedures, such as those charged with publications, guest hospitality, administrative duties and the organisation of an exhibition auxiliary to the conference, also presented reports.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is organising the conference as part of efforts to safeguard architectural heritage in Jordan.

They have embarked on rehabilitation, restoration of various sites and protection of Jordanian patrimony, head of the conference preparatory committee, Marwan Faouri, stated subsequent to the meeting.

During the three-day conference, to be held under Royal patronage, several reports are to be reviewed covering heritage preservation, the role of the media and local councils in same, and the training of specialised cadres, according to a statement released subsequent to the meeting.

A minimum of 18 reports, of which seven hail from neighbouring Arab countries, are slated to be reviewed during the meetings.

According to the statement, Jordanian universities, the Jordan Engineers Association, the Royal Scientific Society, the National Geographic Centre, and the ministries of tourism, Aqaf and Islamic affairs and municipal and rural affairs will participate in the seminar as will the municipalities of Fubeis, Madaba, Salt, Jerash and Karak. Delegates from Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria and Saudi Arabia will join their Jordanian counterparts during the conference, Mr. Faouri concluded.

'Flights for southern Israel to land in Aqaba'

AMMAN (AFP) — Some international flights to the Israeli resort of Eilat will be diverted to Aqaba airport beginning next month, ahead of a joint airport agreement, an official said Wednesday.

Technical delegations from Jordan and Israel decided to "transfer some international flights, en route to Israel's Eilat airport, to the Aqaba airport [beginning] September," according to Civil Aviation Authority Director General Jasser Zayyad.

Aqaba and Eilat, both Red Sea resorts, are separated by a distance of several kilometres.

"This pilot project is a transitional phase until a final agreement on creating a joint Jordanian-Israeli airport at Aqaba is concluded," Mr. Zayyad said.

The temporary arrangement is to be signed at the end of August by the two countries' transportation ministers, Mr. Zayyad said, adding that the accord "will be reviewed every six months or annually."

The joint airport, called for in the October 1994 Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, is to be built in Aqaba and will serve the Israeli airports of Eilat and Ovda, 70 kilometres distant.

A feasibility study, by a U.S. company, estimated the airport's cost at \$125 million, but Israel and Jordan are considering methods to lessen the price.

"Negotiations between the two countries on building a joint airport are continuing," Mr. Zayyad stated. "The pilot project ... will be a test for agreement on the airport."

Jordan announced in June that permission for Israeli civilian aircraft to use Aqaba airport has been frozen due to "unacceptable" new Israeli security demands.

Mr. Zayyad said Jordanian and Israeli security experts "are holding a meeting Wednesday to wrap up the details, especially on the entry of buses from Israel."

Israel has asked that its security agents be deployed inside the Aqaba airport and on roads the buses will travel with passengers headed for Eilat.

Jordan rejected the requests, maintaining they infringed on the Kingdom's sovereignty.

"Jordanian jurisdiction is a matter of sovereignty, and security will be retained," Mr. Zayyad concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

Musical performance by the Royal Band at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

FESTIVAL

Concert by Milham Band at the main theatre at 9:00 p.m.

THEATRE

Seating on Mount Al-Razzaq by Ahmad Madi, Mohammed al-Shayyakh, and Mohammed al-Sayid at the church mission square at 8:00 p.m.

LEBANESE STUDIO ART FESTIVAL

Performance by Lebanese singers at King Abdullah Garden on Thursday and Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Police still searching for missing boys

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ajloun police are still searching for two youths who disappeared after leaving their respective homes five days ago.

Ibrahim Adnan Smadi, 13, and Mustafa Ahmad, 12, left their homes on Aug. 16, and have not been seen since, according to police officials Wednesday.

"We are still seeking the boys, and we have notified all police stations in the proximity of Ajloun, as well as the border police [that they might aid in the search]," Director of the Ajloun Police Station Lieutenant Colonel Sa'ed Nahnoush asserted.

He told the Jordan Times that he does not anticipate any harm befalling the children.

"One of the boy's siblings informed us that his brother had requested that he accompany the child to an unknown destination for two or three days," the police official said. "This leads us to deduce that the two went somewhere to work and earn money without informing their parents."

"Our speculation is that the children may have travelled to Jerash to earn some money, and we have increased our efforts in that area," he added.

Family members of the children, whose photos appeared in local dailies, were quoted in newspapers as saying that the two had no enemies and were not entangled in any dispute.

In October of last year, three teenagers, who went missing for two weeks from the Irbid Refugee Camp in which they lived, were found to have travelled to Syria.

Subsequent to their recovery by Syrian authorities, the three told their parents that they had travelled to Syria to visit relatives residing there.

In other incidents in the Kingdom, an Egyptian national, 29, was killed in the Neimeh area of Irbid after falling from a quarry, a Civil Defence Department (CDD) official said.

Shahadeh Fathi fell and smashed his skull, the official told the Jordan Times.

He was rushed to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and declared dead on arrival.

Killer of S. African Communist leader denies he is a racist

PRETORIA (AFP) — A rightwing politician convicted of killing South African Communist leader Chris Hani denied Wednesday that he was racist, but said he believed Africans were less advanced than Westerners.

Clive Derby-Lewis, a former senior leader and parliament member of the Conservative Party, told South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission he was not "racist" but stated there were "differences between peoples."

Mr. Derby-Lewis and Polish immigrant Junusz Walus were convicted of the April 10, 1993 murder of Hani, and both are applying for amnesty before a commission hearing at the Pretoria City Hall.

"African people are not as technologically advanced as Western people. That is not a racist statement. It is a fact," Mr. Derby-Lewis said to loud boos from the mainly black audience.

"African man, however, has a far greater respect and love of family and I admire that," he added.

Mr. Derby-Lewis gave Walus the gun used to kill Hani, then a popular leader of the black liberation movement headed by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

"It is a fact that blacks like to make babies," Mr. Derby-Lewis added. "But I like to make babies too."

"I do not hate black people, I do not hate yellow people or Greek people. But I love my people (White Afrikaners)," he said to applause from right-wing supporters in the gallery.

The former politician has refused to apologise to the Hani family, saying the killing was an "act of war" against the "Anti Christ."

He added Wednesday that he would have considered killing other anti-apartheid leaders, including Mr. Mandela, if the Hani murder had not resulted in "chaos and mayhem, as we desired."

"Mr. Mandela could have been considered a target in the future, but at the time he was not on any list," Mr. Derby-Lewis said. He denied accusations that Hani was targeted because he was a "black man who may one day come to power."

"I am not a racist... I just do not deny blacks are different," Mr. Derby-Lewis said.

Walus said in a statement to police shortly after his April 1993 arrest that he had planned to kill Mr. Mandela, but believed it too difficult to target "the old goat."

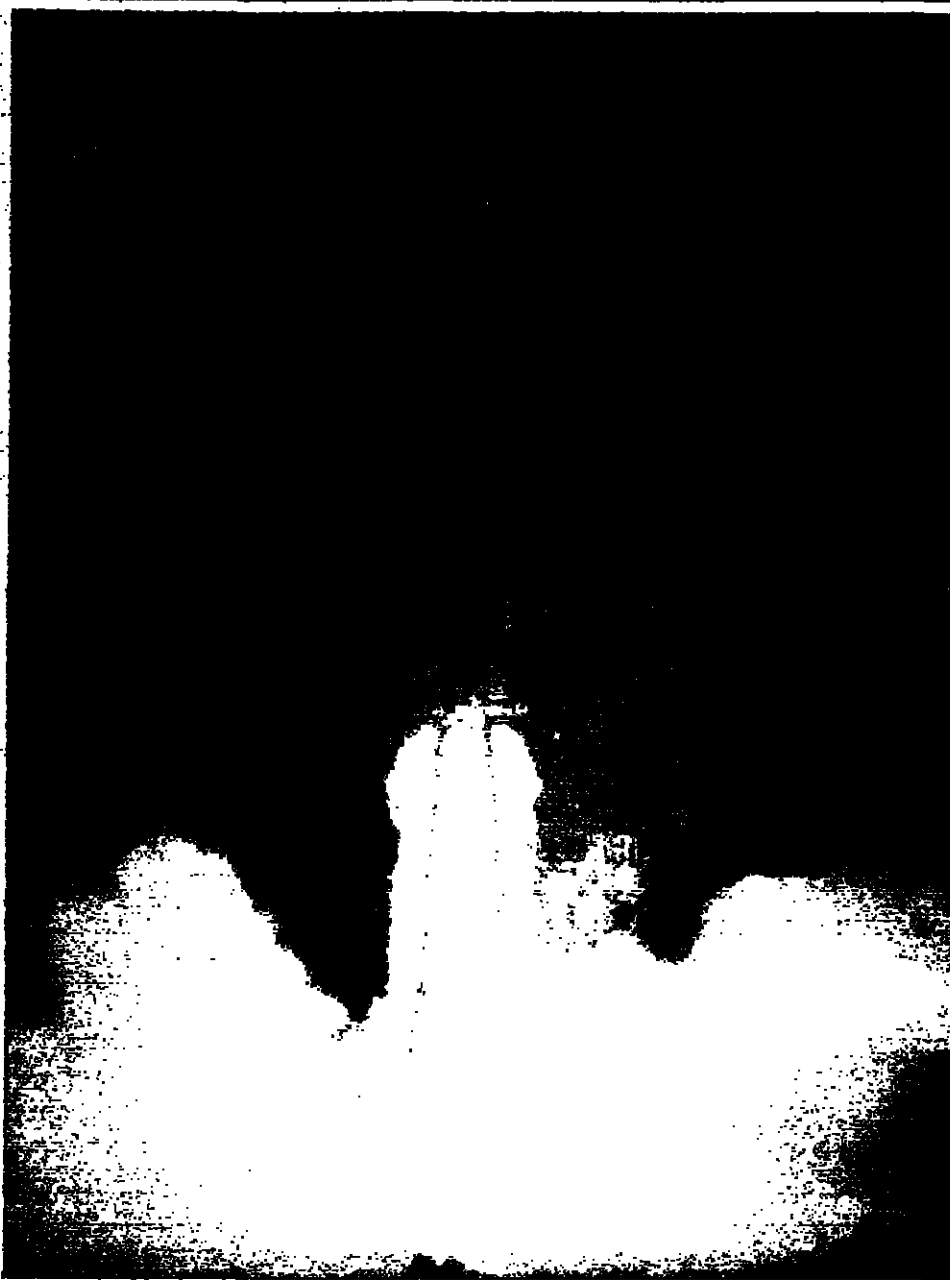
Both defendants have said they acted alone in the killing, but were motivated by the Conservative Party, then South Africa's most powerful far-right group.

Mr. Derby-Lewis disputed speculation that agents of the apartheid government then in power had masterminded the killing, or that supporters of the ANC were involved.

Hani, a former head of the ANC-led South African Communist Party and leader of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe, was widely revered in the anti-apartheid movement.

His killing nearly sparked a race war in the turbulent period prior to South Africa's historic April 1994 all-race elections. The heavily guarded hearings have been attended by a wide range of political leaders from the now-ruling ANC, including Mr. Mandela's ex-wife Winnie Madikizela Mandela, along with rightwing politicians and supporters.

Walus was expected to testify for the first time Wednesday after giving a written confession last week. The Truth Commission can grant amnesty to perpetrators of apartheid-era political crimes who fully confess to their deeds.



China's new generation Long March 3B rocket, carrying a U.S. made satellite owned by the Mahabuy Philippines Satellite Corporation, is launched from the Xichang Air Base in the southwestern province of Sichuan early Wednesday. The launch has been delayed twice this month because of bad weather (Reuters photo)

Long March rocket launches China space programme into a new era

BEIJING (AFP) — China's space launch industry breathed a collective sigh of relief Wednesday, after watching its flagship Long March 3B rocket fire a communications satellite into orbit and open a new era in commercial operations.

The Philippine-owned Mahabuy satellite was launched from the Xichang Space Centre in China's southwestern province of Sichuan at 1750 GMT Tuesday.

The success of the new-generation Long March 3B (LM3B) paves the way for China's satellite launch sector to enter the 21st century — a path that only 18 months ago appeared firmly blocked by the disastrous failure of the rocket's inaugural mission.

Chinese engineers had been under intense pressure to ensure a text-book operation this time around, and the tension was still evident even after the launch.

"The mission was completely successful. What other questions can you possibly have?" one Xichang launch official snapped over the telephone when asked to comment Tuesday's success.

The make-or-break atmosphere surrounding the Mahabuy launch had been heightened by a series of postponements, as engineers sought to fine tune the carrier and guard against any possible mishap.

"This is a major step forward for the Chinese," said a Western aerospace expert

based in Beijing.

"The new rocket is a significant advance from its precursor, the LM3A, and its greater payload capability will push China into a whole new market it had previously been unable to supply," the expert said.

The three-stage, liquid fuelled LM3B, which measures 54 meters (178 feet) and weighs 426 tonnes, is by far the most powerful rocket developed by China and can carry satellites in excess of five tonnes — the same payload as the Ariane-5 operated by rival European launcher Arianespace.

"China's prices are still very competitive, and if it can consolidate on this success then the contracts are going to follow," the expert said.

The LM3B is already lined up for three further launches this year, carrying the Hong Kong Apstar-2R, the Sinosat-1 built by France's Aerospatiale for an official Chinese client, and the Chinastar-1, owned by China Oriental Telecom Satellite Co. Ltd.

"Of course, this was a very important moment for us," said China Aerospace Corp. information officer Zhang Zhiqian.

"I have no doubt that this launch will go a long way to confirming the faith of our international clients in China's launch services," Mr. Zhang said, adding the Apstar-2R launch would take place between late September and early October.

That faith was shattered when an LM3B rocket — carrying the Intelsat 708 satellite — blew up just after take-off on Feb. 15 last year. Six people were killed and 57 injured by falling debris.

The failure was blamed on changes of inertial reference in the rocket's control system causing the spacecraft to alter course.

It was one of five failed trajectories in less than four years for China, and left satellite owners and insurers wary of the Chinese rockets' reliability.

Tuesday's success means the crippling insurance premiums China had to pay on the LM3B should be reduced somewhat, making the service even more competitive.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos and executives of the Mahabuy Philippines Satellite Corp. viewed the launching via a live feed set up in a compound adjacent to the presidential palace in Manila.

Champagne toasts were reportedly made and cigars passed around among the officials after they saw the satellite had successfully separated from its launch.

Even French giant Aerospatiale — a partner in the rival Ariane programme — offered China a pat on the back.

"Aerospatiale congratulates the Chinese side on its great success," said David Grezes, the group's assistant representative in China.

Montserrat residents in the dark about evacuation plan as volcano smokes

BRIDGETOWN (AFP) — Residents of volcano-stricken Montserrat planned protests late Tuesday over what they said was a lack of information from authorities on the British Caribbean island about voluntary evacuation plans.

"We want to know what is happening," Julian Romeo, an upset hardware store owner told a regional radio station, monitored here by AFP.

"My friends from all over the United Kingdom and everywhere are calling and saying that Montserrat is being evacuated, and so far Montserratians know absolutely nothing," he added.

Monday evening, police broke up a street demonstration by a group of residents on the island where the Soufriere Hills Volcano

has been erupting almost daily since Aug. 3.

The mostly young Montserratians were angry over Chief Minister Bertrand Osborne's failure at a news conference to give details of a financial assistance package the British government would give to those opting to leave.

On Tuesday, Britain announced extra ferries would be available from Wednesday to transport residents who want to leave for nearby Antigua where about 4,000 Montserratians have resettled since the volcano roared back to life two years ago.

As an alternative, residents can also choose to go to other Caribbean islands which have adopted open door policies or to Britain. London has not yet worked out the cost of the package

which will cover transportation and a relocation allowance.

The "voluntary evacuation" plan was prompted by a recent increase in volcanic activity which has led scientists monitoring it to forecast that if a cataclysmic event should occur, the entire island would be unsafe.

But Paul Jackson, a scientist observing the volcano, Tuesday told the BBC's Caribbean Service a cataclysmic eruption was "a very low probability."

The Civil Service Association (CSA), whose members recently staged a sick out as a form of protest, and Citizens for a Fairer Deal, a newly formed pressure group, planned public meetings Tuesday night to voice concerns about the present uncertainty on the island.

Cambodian government troops cross into Thailand

BANGKOK (AFP) — About 200 armed troops loyal to one of the battling Cambodian factions Wednesday crossed into Thai territory during a ferocious battle for a royalist border stronghold, army officials said.

The incursion came as the Thai military fired a warning shot at forces loyal to Cambodian strongman leader Hun Sen after a stray shell unleashed in the fierce battle landed inside Thailand.

Military officials in the Thai border area said the troop intrusion occurred as forces loyal to Mr. Hun Sen and rival ousted First Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh battled for control of Cambodia's last royalist bastion.

"This is a serious situation," a senior officer who requested anonymity said, adding the Thai army was preparing to clear the troops from Thailand to prevent an escalation of a potentially serious diplomatic incident.

"Now the Thai (military) is ready to act but has not yet decided what action to take to push the Cambodian troops out of Thai territory," he said.

Other military sources in eastern Thailand said it was unclear which faction had crossed into the remote area of Thailand or why they had done so.

One officer suggested the troops may simply have strayed during the battle. "I think that they were fighting an intruder into Thai territory," he said.

The border between the two countries in the remote and malarial region is often not clearly demarcated. The incident could not immediately be independently confirmed.

The opposing sides were Wednesday locked in battle on the edges of the Prince's Bastion of O Smach which Mr. Hun Sen has vowed his forces will soon seize.

The sides fired repeated volleys of artillery, mortars and rockets at each other as royalist forces clung to their last territorial possession in the face of the onslaught by the heavily armed and more numerous Phnom Penh troops.

Thai military sources said the battle was raging on the outskirts of O Smach. The proximity of the firing to the Thai border seemed to confirm this.

Mr. Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh after a weekend of

bloody street fighting in Phnom Penh on July 5 and 6 and then moved to consolidate his victory by routing the prince's forces from the north of the country.

The incursion came as the Thai army fired a heavy weapons round towards Hun Sen's forces after a stray artillery shell landed about 400 meters inside Thailand near the village of Chaung Plot Ta, military officials said.

The single shell was intended as a warning to the Phnom Penh forces that Thailand would not tolerate a spillover of the fighting into neighbouring Thai territory, officials said. "We fired only once, but if other shells intrude into Thai territory again, the Thai military will think it is necessary to issue another warning," a Bangkok-based senior army officer told AFP.

The incident occurred at 1 p.m. Wednesday during a fierce artillery duel near the Thai border between Hun Sen's forces and those loyal to Prince Ranariddh.

They could not confirm whether the Cambodian shell fell in a village, but the remote area is relatively sparsely populated.

Cambodian sources have said that the Thai military had previously warned Mr. Hun Sen's forces that fighting over O Smach could spill over into Thailand, causing a serious incident.

O Smach is set on a hill on the Thai border, making accurate heavy weapons strikes very difficult, military analysts said. They also said it was unlikely the royalists would be able to hold their pocket of territory for much longer.

Meanwhile Prince Norodom Ranariddh appealed Wednesday to all friendly countries, international organisations and financial institutions to refrain from signing any accords with Phnom Penh.

No treaties, agreements or contracts could be considered valid until the Cambodian political crisis had been resolved, Prince Ranariddh said in a statement.

The prince held that he remained the country's legal first prime minister and that the current authorities in Phnom Penh "have no right to commit Cambodia (and) they are not entitled to sign any treaty, agreement or contract on behalf of Cambodia."

Rebels claim beating off Sri Lankan advance, toll nears 160

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil tiger rebels Wednesday said they inflicted heavy losses on government forces while resisting a fresh advance as the official death toll climbed to 159 on both sides.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said they recovered the bodies of eight Sri Lankan soldiers killed in ferocious battles Tuesday near the northern rebel-held town of Puliyanakulam.

"The remaining troops withdrew from the scene of battle with heavy losses," the Tigers said in a statement from their London office.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement Wednesday at least 130 rebels and 29 government soldiers were killed. Another 58 soldiers were admitted to hospital, the ministry said.

"A number of terrorist mortar positions were neutralised by effective counter bombardment by the artillery," the ministry said, adding that Israeli-built Kfir jets and Russian Mi-24 helicopter gun ships were used to attack retreating rebels.

The statement said that three battle tanks were damaged due to rebel fire but the guerrillas said they destroyed two and captured an armoured personnel carrier during Tuesday's fighting.

The latest fighting broke out when army columns backed by tanks and air cover began moving towards Puliyanakulam and the Tigers put up stiff resistance using bus loads of rebels.

Government forces are engaged in a major drive to capture a key highway through rebel-held territory in the north of the country but intense rebel resistance has slowed down the advance.

Since launching the offensive on May 13 to open the road to the northern peninsula of Jaffna, more than 1,100 people have been killed making the battle for the highway a dead-end for both sides.

The most ferocious fire fight so far came at the beginning of this month when the LTTE attacked military defences near the northern town of Ommathai where both sides lost 267 by official count.

Cosmonauts boot up Mir computer and turn to navigational system

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian cosmonauts successfully rebooted Mir's main computer Wednesday and began bringing the ageing space station's navigational system back up, opening the way for a difficult space walk.

Ground control spokeswoman, Rufina Amosova told AFP that the computer, which suddenly crashed Monday and was fixed Tuesday, "has been rebooted with data."

Next the three-man Russian-U.S. crew was working to bring the Gyrodines automatic navigational system, which relies on the main computer, back into operation "by the end of the day," she said.

Until the Gyrodines work, the pioneering but troublesome Mir station is being kept on course with the help of blasts from the motors of the Soyuz escape capsule, docked to the station.

A proper flight path is vital to keep Mir's solar energy panels oriented towards the sun, supplying the station with electricity.

The two Russian cosmonauts — Anatoly Solovoy and Pavel Vinogradov — were also continuing preparations for a delayed space walk into the Mir's Spektr module, which was holed and depressurised in a near-catastrophic collision with an incoming cargo vessel on June 25.

While Commander Solovoy, one of the world's most experienced astronauts, and Mr. Vinogradov are in space, the third crew member, NASA astronaut, Michael Foale, will be at the controls of the Soyuz vehicle just in case they need to make an emergency getaway.

After their venture into Spektr, the cosmonauts plan to go on another space walk on Sept. 3 to assess the external damage to Spektr.

It is still not clear how many punctures were made

in the hull of Spektr, or even the cause of the accident, which occurred while the former crew — Vasily Tsibilyev and Alexander Lazutkin — were trying to dock the Progress cargo craft.

After the new cosmonauts' initial recon, space officials be able to decide how to proceed with the far more complicated task of patching up the punctured areas and reopening Spektr for work.

The collision was only the most serious of numerous mishaps during Cmdr. Tsibilyev's and Mr. Lazutkin's nightmarish mission — a six-month period that the Russian authorities, who rely heavily on commercial funding from the U.S. and European space agencies, are desperate to put behind them.

On July 17, one of the crew accidentally disconnected an electrical cable, unplugging the main computer and pushing the craft off its normal flight path, as happened Monday.

Cmdr. Tsibilyev and Mr. Lazutkin also had to cope with a fire on board in February, the breakdown of two oxygen generators in March and problems with the air-conditioning system in April.

The exhausted cosmonauts returned to earth on Aug. 14.

North Korean leader seeks peace with U.S.; hints at talks with South

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il has called for a peace treaty with the United States and hinted at resuming suspended inter-Korean dialogue, the state news agency reported Wednesday.

But analysts here said Mr. Kim's proposals showed no real change in Pyongyang's policies aimed at bypassing Seoul in talks on the future of the divided Korean peninsula.

"The question of easing tension and removing the danger of war in our country can be settled, before all else, when the United States gives up its hostile policy against our republic and a peace treaty is concluded," Mr. Kim said in a 24-page text carried by the north's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Monitors here said KCNA carried excerpts from Mr. Kim's work last week to mark the 52nd anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan's colonial rule on Aug. 15, 1945. But this was the first time Pyongyang had disclosed the full text of

his work.

It was released a day after a ground-breaking ceremony for two nuclear reactors to be built in North Korea under a deal between Pyongyang and Washington aimed at easing tension on the peninsula.

Mr. Kim proposed that the two Koreas "join their efforts to promote co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and achieve the great cause of the country's reunification transcending the differences in ideologies and social systems."

If the South Koreans gave up what he called their "anti-national and anti-reunification" policy "we will meet them at any time to negotiate with an open heart about the destiny of the nation and make joint efforts for the country's reunification."

Pyongyang called off direct government-to-government dialogue with Seoul when Mr. Kim's father President Kim Il-Sung died in July, 1994, citing a crackdown in South Korea

on dissidents seeking to attend his funeral.

"The North is not ready for sincere dialogue with the South," said Oh Sung-Ryul, a researcher at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

"For a while, Pyongyang will endeavour to improve relations with Washington while trying to solve internal problems such as food shortages," Mr. Oh told AFP.

In his work, however, Mr. Kim stressed that the hunger-stricken North would "join hands with those who take the road of national reunification with national conscience, regardless of their ideas and religious beliefs."

"Improving the relations between the North and the South is an urgent requirement for achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country," he said.

Kim Jong-Il, 55, has not officially adopted the title of president and Communist Party chief since his father's death in July, 1994. But he is widely believed to be steering the country's policy.

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Transparency for own sake

ACCORDING TO the Resources Corporate Group, Amman ranks the fifth most expensive city in the whole Continent of Africa and the entire Middle East region. This is bad news since the country's overall economic competitiveness is linked to its cheap labour and relatively low cost of living. The disturbing news, however, do not end here. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Kingdom ranks eighth in the index for poverty among the developing countries. Digging deeper into statistical information would also reveal that the actual poverty rate is about 32 per cent and not around 20 per cent as the government would like us to believe.

The discrepancy between the government's data and the independent information is attributed to the nature and scope of the data used to calculate the exact number of poverty-stricken Jordanians. Apparently our authorities measure the number of poor on the basis of the absolute number of families affected without taking into consideration the actual number of family members. The fact is that many families have no less than 9 members and many others of less than 6 members on average. The erroneous use of the family unit per se and not the actual number of people affected has contributed to the distorted information about the real number of Jordanians living under the poverty line.

The same goes for the number of unemployed. At a time when the government insists that unemployment stands at around 14 per cent, independent calculations using different factors and data to measure the size of problem claim that the actual figure is probably over 25 per cent. The confusion about the true state of the Kingdom's economy is further exacerbated when the rate of inflation is calculated. The government calculates the rate of inflation on the basis of a basket of essentials and non-essentials. Accordingly, the government's list consists of some 600 basic and non-basic products instead of calculating it on the basis of only the relevant 48 basic products made up of only the most essential commodities. It so happens that the prices of most essential goods rise more quickly in comparison with the remaining list of non-essential goods and services which do not change at all or change less dramatically.

Against this backdrop the first order of business is to set the record straight on the true state of the national economy by using accurate data. Once the real situation is made clear, our economic policy makers need to roll up their sleeves and start doing something tangible about poverty, unemployment and inflation. By pretending that all is fine with the country's economic performance, we end up brushing aside problems that grow bigger with time.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i has called on the Muslim Nation to raise funds for the defence of Jerusalem and its holy sites against Israel's Judaisation plans. It was a shame for the Arab and Islamic worlds to raise a very modest sum in donations, through a television programme organised by the London-based MBC television station, for the defence of Jerusalem and the support of its Arab people's resistance against the Israeli Judaisation measures, said Hosni Ayesh. The writer cited as a heroic and patriotic deed a recent decision by Palestinian and Jordanian wealthy people to create a \$100-million Jerusalem fund to enhance the steadfastness of the Arab people of the city. He said there are alternate methods for raising funds, particularly in the oil-rich Arab countries whose people are Muslims and consider Al Aqsa Mosque as the third holiest shrine in Islam. He said that one method that can be used is to place collection boxes at the doors of all mosques, urging worshippers to pay merely one fil for Jerusalem every time they go for prayers. In this way, said the writer, at least another \$100 million can be raised annually for the support of the Islamic shrines and the Muslim people of Jerusalem. The writer said that if the Muslims love Jerusalem and its holy shrines, they can easily provide the funds necessary for its cause.

A WRITER for Al Dustour described as positive, though timid, a step by the Arab League to break the air embargo on Libya by allowing official delegations and people in need of emergency help or travelling for religious purposes to fly into and out of Libyan territory. Rakan Majali said that by this move, the Arab League has expressed its condemnation of the embargo which is an unethical, inhuman and aggressive practice against nations. Indeed, the economic sanctions like those imposed unjustly on Iraq, Sudan or Libya are not hurting, economically and socially, the Iraqi nation alone, but also Jordan and other countries neighbouring the three Arab countries, said the writer. Citing a statement by former U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, in which he said that the embargo on Iraq could last for decades because the U.S. holds the key in this game, the writer said that it is inhuman for the rest of the world to maintain the embargo on 20 million Iraqis, exacerbating their sufferings. It is the Arab League's duty to see to it that there is not only a partial lifting but total termination of all kinds of sanctions on Arab states.

View from the Academia

East meets West at the University of Jordan

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

AN IMPORTANT conference will take place next week (August 23-27) on the campus of the University of Jordan. The First International Conference on Arabic-English Contrastive and Comparative Studies, organised by the Department of English Language and Literature, will give the opportunity to about 150 scholars from the Kingdom, the Arab World and the globe at large to exchange research findings and views on issues of mutual concern. About 110 papers will be presented on a variety of subjects within the following five important realms: comparative literature, cross-language studies, interlanguage studies, translation and problems of teaching English to Arab students. The participants are primarily scholars from English language and literature departments in the Arab World, Asia, Europe, Africa and America.

The importance of the conference stems from several factors. The first has to do with the obvious, but significant, fact that since the majority of participants are university instructors and researchers who spend most of their time, during the course of the academic year, with students, exam papers and books, the gathering is a nice break from daily routine.

The conference is a meeting of minds and a meeting of equals. There is no doubt that during the academic year, university instructors and researchers get stimulation and fulfilment from the various tasks they are involved in; but the conference provides the participants with the type of intense intellectual stimulation which they do not normally enjoy. The debates that take place in the various sessions are intellectually more rewarding, sophisticated and challenging than those debates which take place in the classroom during the course of the academic year, in which the instructor is most of the time (still) at the centre and in

which he/she is (still again) the transmitter of knowledge and the provider of information. There is hardly anything rewarding, challenging or stimulating (for the instructor, that is) about grading, week after week, papers which contain the same types of errors over and over again.

In addition, and secondly, through the various papers which are presented on the specific subjects, through the various conversations that take place, and through the news and views that get circulated and exchanged, the participants — who are experts in a variety of disciplines within the realms of literature, language, linguistics and translation — learn a lot about the latest developments and happenings in their own realm of specialisation. What are the specialists saying about Tayyib Saleh, Shakespeare, Gibran, language acquisition, translation theory, the problems and benefits involved in teaching literary texts, etc.? It is true that during the past three or four years we have been able to have access to the various studies and research projects through the Internet and through e-mail, but conferences still play a fundamental role in circulating news and propagating ideas related to one's own speciality.

Third, the conference brings together, in particular, scholars, instructors and researchers involved essentially in the specific field of English language and literature. This is one of the important programs and missions with the implementation of which all Arab universities are entrusted. And yet, even though such mission is the concern of all Arab universities, very little coordination and cooperation is happening at this point in time among the Arab brethren in this important sphere (as the case is in many others). We know very little about how fellow scholars and instructors in Egypt, Syria, Algeria, etc. conduct

their business in the classroom and what they think about questions like the importance of English (language and literature), the problems and challenges they face in teaching it, etc. The conference is a golden opportunity in this respect.

Along these lines, the conference organisers (essentially the Department of English at the University of Jordan) are hoping to persuade the participants of the importance of establishing an association with membership open to all instructors, researchers and scholars who are involved with English language, literature and translation in the Arab World. The aim is to provide them with a forum through which they can meet periodically, think things jointly, coordinate efforts and cooperate. This is crucial at this point in time.

Fourth, the gathering is essentially a meeting between East and West. Not only will there be scholars from the Arab World, Africa and Asia, but there will also be a significant number from Europe and America. More important, the topics of discussions and the interconnected themes of the conference are in essence about East and West. When we talk about teaching English and American literature in the Arab World, we are talking about an important dimension of encounter between East and West; the same applies to teaching English language, linguistics, translation, etc. What are the obstacles and challenges involved (morally, intellectually, etc.) when we teach English and American literature in an Arab context? How do the two cultures interact? What are the risks involved? What is to be gained? How is the interaction facilitated in the most useful ways?

For all these reasons, and others, the conference will be an important and exciting event.

Netanyahu following in Begin's footsteps

By Pascal B. Karmy

AN OBSERVER of the negotiations (which are now in abeyance) which have taken place between the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and the Israeli government under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu will conclude that the latter is surreptitiously exerting his utmost efforts for the cancellation in practice of the Oslo accords of September 1993 and their corollaries of 1994 and thereafter. He, in effect, wishes to revert simply and purely to the provisions of the Camp David accords of 1978 and 1979 and as interpreted by his ideological master Menachem Begin.

I would review very shortly the Camp David accords as far as the West Bank and Gaza Strip are concerned and how Begin intended to apply them.

The relevant provisions are contained in the Framework for Peace in the Middle East, of 1978, and in the letter dated March 26, 1979, as an adjunct to the peace treaty concluded between Egypt and Israel of the same date. The letter was addressed to

U.S. President Jimmy Carter by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Prime Minister Begin. Both the Framework for Peace and the letter provide, among other matters, that the Palestinians shall have full autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and negotiations shall take place between Egypt and Israel with the view of electing a Palestinian self-governing authority.

It should be emphasised here that Egypt insisted at the outset of negotiations on the establishment of a self-governing legislative council with real full powers over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip territories. But Begin would not agree to this interpretation and so negotiations faltered, then failed and were never revived. In fact, Begin claimed sovereignty of Israel over the Palestinian territory as being part of the land of Israel.

In his book "The Autumn of Fury", at page 170 (English edition), the well-known writer and journalist Hasanein Haykal says: "Begin had not the slightest intention that the autonomy

promised by the Camp David accords should have any real meaning. On the contrary, the West Bank was to be Israel's reward for handing back Sinai. Nor had Egypt been able to prevent Israel's annexation of Jerusalem. Israel's creeping annexation of the West Bank meant that Egypt's vital link with Arab Asia was being irrevocably cut."

From the outset, Begin did not intend to give full authority to the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He often repeated that the Palestine self-governing authority will exercise power over the Palestinian people only and not on the land itself. This view was contrary to the spirit and letter of the Framework for Peace and of the March 26, 1979, letter. Otherwise, what is the use of "full autonomy" if it does not encompass both the people and land? Begin considered the Palestinians as Arab inhabitants of Israeli territory. He thus continued to grab Palestinian lands and build thereon Jewish settlements.

Any observer of the attitude, actions and utterances

of Netanyahu concludes that he is indeed following the footsteps of his master Begin. First, he does not recognise Jerusalem as an occupied territory nor, for that matter, the West Bank and Gaza Strip as required by international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. He does not recognise the sovereignty of the PNA over the West Bank, as he is bent on confiscating Palestinian lands and building settlements as if they were Israeli lands. He opposes the creation of a Palestinian state to which the Palestinians are entitled according to the general principles of international law on self-determination.

In effect, Netanyahu does not believe in the Oslo accords. Although outwardly, vis-a-vis the world public opinion, he is compelled to deal with it, he, at the same time, divests those accords of any concrete meaning on the ground. He only pays lip service to them. Indeed, he once arrogantly said that the Palestinians should adapt themselves and their dreams to Israeli requirements; in other words, the Palestinians

should bow to the dictates and interests of Israel. As his master Begin once said, Netanyahu wishes to exchange peace for peace but not land for peace; and in his latest speech, delivered on the occasion of the graduation from the military national security college, he said Israel should extend its hegemony on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as they are essential to the strategic space of Israel. His speech reminds me of Hitler speeches when he used to say: the Sudetenland and then Czechoslovakia, etc., are "lebensraum" (vital space) for Germany.

Netanyahu's policy, and that of his Likud government, towards the Palestinians cannot be changed as long as the Arab states do not adopt a firm, common and unified stand to compel Israel to honour the Oslo accords. The Arab states should not, on the other hand, be taken for

granted by the U.S., nor should they, every time, accommodate the United States. And any emissaries or intermediaries sent by the Arab states to intervene between the PNA and Netanyahu's government will be of no help unless the Arabs are strong and unified to force Israel to comply with the Oslo accords fully and faithfully, without divesting them of their substantial provisions. Otherwise, there can be no peace in Palestine or in the Middle East. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan put it in a nutshell when he said, in Jerusalem: "Without peace there can be no security and no security without peace."

The writer was an advocate in Palestine in 1944 and, for many years, legal officer at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Appealing to the minds and hearts of Palestinians

By Uri Avnery

TEL AVIV — As a very young person I was member of Irgun, then the most extreme underground organisation in Palestine. It was officially classified by the British administration as a terrorist group. Irgun put bombs in the Arab markets of Jaffa and Haifa, in retaliation for Arab attacks on Jews. (After several years I came to the conclusion that there must be better ways to resolve the conflict).

As a terrorist, I was keenly aware of the importance of public support.

When my "section" came to my room for pistol practice, my neighbours must have sensed that something unusual was taking place. When my "company" assembled at night in a darkened school building, the principal and janitor at least must have been accomplices. Neighbours in the surrounding streets must have noticed suspicious movements.

To be effective, an underground organisation needs a stream of money and information, new recruits, printing facilities, secret medical help for the wounded, transportation, places to hide, and — more than anything else — the readiness of the surrounding population not to give its members away. Many, many people must

give it at best tacit support. Mao Zedong described the situation perfectly in his dictum that the guerrilla fighter is like a fish in the water, the water being the general population. Without the water, the fish dies.

The only way to put an end to a terrorist campaign is to isolate terrorists. The real battle is for the minds of the people.

"The intended result (of blockade): economic catastrophe, widespread hunger and malnutrition for children and adults, and a breakdown of Palestinian National Authority (PNA). One has to be naive to think that this will isolate the terrorists and sow in the hearts of Palestinians a love of Israel and Zionism."

Military men and stupid politicians very often believe that the best way to isolate terrorists is collective punishment. That is the wisdom of the platoon leader in the army, who punishes the whole platoon for the misdeeds of one soldier, hoping that the angry men will discipline their erring comrade. When applied to a whole people, this principle generally achieves the opposite. The angry population does not blame the terrorists but the hated regime, which ordered the punishment. The intensified climate of hatred and despair plays into the hands of the terrorists. More water for the fish.

After the signing of the Oslo agreement on the White House lawn, a great upsurge of optimism turned the Palestinian population in

the occupied territories against terrorism. Hamas and Jihad did not disappear, but they realised that any extreme action would cut them off from the vast majority of the Palestinian people. For nearly a year there was no significant terrorist act.

Later, when application of many parts of the agreement was postponed by Israel, and

hundreds of metres from the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, is being viewed by Palestinians as an act of war.

In this atmosphere, public opposition to terrorism shrinks.

The Netanyahu government reacted with classic measures: More collective punishment. Not only the usual "closure", cutting all Palestinians in the liberated and occupied territories off from Arab Jerusalem and their working places in Israel, but also blockading each town and village in the liberated Palestinian areas separately, cutting them off from each other.

The intended result: economic catastrophe, widespread hunger and malnutrition for children and adults, and a breakdown of Palestinian National Authority (PNA). One has to be naive to think that this will isolate the terrorists and sow in the hearts of Palestinians a love of Israel and Zionism.

In practice, this is a recipe for more terrorism, leading to more countermeasures and an eventual bloodbath.

One wonders about the inactivity of the Americans. Only they can break the vicious circle. A major outbreak of violence, led by religious fanatics on both sides, could bring a political disaster, creating chaos and worse in the whole region.

The writer is a leader of the Israeli peace movement Gush Shalom. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

Thing of the past

To the Editor:

IT APPEARS that the reputable Economist magazine started issuing a special Jordan Edition. What distinguishes the Jordan Edition from any other international edition, as I saw it last time, is that it has one page of it crudely torn out; otherwise it is exactly identical.

Living in a democratic and pluralistic society on the eve of its parliamentary elections, I feel constantly encouraged to reach out and understand different opinions and ideologies. With this Jordanian mindset, I took less than five minutes of my time to download an article missing from the Jordan Edition on my laptop. (www.economist.co.uk for those who are interested). Then the thought struck me: Does the person who edited (to put it euphemistically) the Jordan Edition also share my Jordanian mindset? If not, it is my duty as a good Jordanian to try and understand what goes through this other, might I say, censored mindset. So what did Mr. (or Mrs.) Censor think when tearing the page out?

The decision is far from simple, for the censor has a very challenging assignment. There are two possibilities why the censor had decided to spare the Jordanian readers of the Economist from reading this one page. One possibility would be that the censor believes certain information on that page to be false. If that is indeed the case, the appropriate Jordanian response would be to address the issue in a letter to the Economist magazine explaining the objection against the article. I am confident that the few dedicated readers of the Economist's Jordan Edition would read the response and consider it very carefully. The other, perhaps more sinister, possibility is that the censor believes the information to be correct, but would not want to "pollute" the minds of the Jordanian readers with the rubbish of the Economist, in this case the Jordanian Edition.

Regardless of the motives, the censor is still doing a very poor job. Maybe he/she should be introduced to the Internet, the fax machine, the satellite dish or simply the phone. If the censor were indeed dedicated, he/she should cut Internet access, outlaw satellite dishes and faxes, and monitor all international phone calls to Jordan.

Of course, there are those who might have unscrupulously bought the "other" edition abroad and brought it back with them to Jordan. Highly specialised Economist detection machines would have to be introduced at Queen Alia International Airport. And what if the person read the article abroad and memorised it? Such questions could go on.

The basic point is rather simple: censorship is a thing of the past.

Ramy Tadros,
Tadros-catadros@go.com.jo

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Society on the Move

Envoys at attention while globetrotters touch base

HRH Princess Basma Ali, a captain in the Women's Affairs Directorate of the Jordan Armed Forces, today will marry **Amjad Farah**, an agribusinessman. Princess Basma is the youngest daughter of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali Bin Nayef and Princess Wijdan. The happy occasion is being celebrated with close friends and family at a private farm north of Amman.

and is said to be the quintessential communicator. Well, with parents like hers...

World Bank Communications Director for the Middle East and North Africa **Abdullah Bouhabib** was in Amman last week to select journalists from Jordan to attend the fourth workshop organised by the bank for Middle Eastern media persons to acquaint them with World Bank functions. Amman was not the only stop on this tour as Mr. Bouhabib earlier travelled to Lebanon and Egypt for the same purpose. He and his wife Julie and their children left Amman for Palestine, where Mr. Bouhabib intends to also scout Palestinian journalists for the bank workshop.

declining comment on the whys and wherefores of the many resignations and dismissals at Al Arab Al Yom. He was equally so in speaking about himself. But Mr. Tawil, an active participant in politics in this earlier days, says he will write for another paper soon. His readers will just have to keep an eye out for his by-line because he was not about to say which paper he had selected. Incidentally his interview, published on Aug. 10, gives a seasoned view of political parties then and now, and touches upon Mr. Tawil's position on the process of democratisation.

COUNTING DOWN: News reports this week were ripe with speculation about Foreign Ministry appointments of ambassadors as announcements were expected to be nearing. What appears a given is that many of the posts will be filled by first-timers to the foreign service, and a few others will be filled by career diplomats set for a promotion. Still, not new to the diplomatic scene, as his current post would surely indicate, is **Mazen Armouti**, president of the Institute of Diplomacy. Dr. Armouti is expected to become Jordan's new ambassador to Austria, replacing **Husam Abu Ghazaleh** who is now at his post as director of the office of the Crown Prince. What that would mean for the ID is uncertain, but only a few months ago we reported the appointment of the ID vice president — she is, of course, **HRH Princess Wijdan Ali**. Another likely appointment of chief envoy of the Kingdom is that of **Abdul Ilah Kundi**, Assistant Director of the General Intelligence Department. He is tipped for the post in Malaysia which will be a new diplomatic mission for Jordan in southeast Asia. Also from the Institute of Diplomacy is **Musa Breizat**, a senior ID researcher and former member of Jordan's delegation to the peace talks with Israel. With several vacancies open in the Middle East and Europe, the field is open for consideration of Dr. Breizat. Other names circulating in the print media have either proved to have not been under serious consideration or have been scratched from the running.

Khalil Othman and **Hind Al Khatib** have one more week of vacation time in Jordan. Dr. Othman, who has been serving as a member of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit along with 10 other inspectors from various geographic locations, has just been elected chairman of the team. The JIU is a subsidiary organisation of the U.N. General Assembly which manages various aspects of the entire U.N. system and its specialised agencies. It has broad powers of investigation, inspection and evaluation of U.N. secretariat programmes and projects. A recent report made recommendations for more unified levels of field representation in the U.N. system. Another report on accountability and oversight of the U.N. is in the making. Ms. Khatib continues also in her work on a part-time contract with UNICEF in Geneva. She is in charge of East Europe for the fund's baby friendly hospital programme and its breast-feeding promotion programme with governments and NGOs.

RUNNING IN THE 3RD:

Ministry of Information Secretary General **Nayef Mawla** is tossing his hat into the parliamentary elections ring. He plans to run for the Circassian seat in Amman's 3rd District. His decision was prompted by many of his friends and associates in the country's various Circassian clubs and associations who encouraged him to contend the seat. With 25 years of service in the executive branch, Mr. Mawla believes he can serve the Kingdom from the legislative side. He sees little if no opponents in his potential bid and has made a count of what he believes add up to secure votes for a win. The 3rd District Circassian seat in 12th Parliament is held by Deputy **Toujan Faisal**.



Nayef Mawla

LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL: Minister of Public Works and Housing **Nasser Lawzi** is getting ready for an organisational move to new quarters. The ministry will move into a new 8th Circle edifice on 19,000 sq. metres of the ministry's own land. The old building in Abdali will be renovated and later used to house members of Parliament and their staff. The plan there is that each governorate will be allotted space for 3 MPs plus staff. The Ministry of Public Works was fortunate to have its own workshops where locally-made furniture is being constructed to furnish the offices anew. The old furniture will be transferred to the ministry's various departments around the country.

PERSON FOR THE JOB: Home news about movements in the U.N. system brings us to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which has maintained an office in Amman for several years, but has not until recently had a U.N. international staff person to head its activities. The man appointed to the job, is **Ugur Tunçer**. With Mr. Tunçer's arrival, U.N. Resident Representative **Jorgen Lissner** is relieved of his overseas responsibilities of one agency in Amman. Mr. Tunçer, who graduated from Portland State University in Oregon with a B.A. in political science and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a masters in public health, has been with the United Nations for nearly two decades. His previous posting was as UNFPA representative in Jakarta. The UNFPA here is currently busy with preparing for its next country programme for 1998-2002. The major concern will be in reproductive health and family planning, with other targets such as policy and strategy development, supporting NGOs in the area of population and development and providing support in the area of youth and adolescents. Mr. Tunçer, who is Turkish, is here with his wife and two children.

EYEING THE 5TH:

Headed for what she admits is an uphill battle, **Al Aswaq** women's affairs editor **Fardous Al Masri** says she intends to run for a parliamentary seat in Amman's 5th District come November. A professional journalist, Ms. Masri says her platform will be primarily concerned with social issues. She began her career in 1976 with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, then moved on to Al Sharqieh Press Agency as an economic reporter, to Al Siyaseh newspaper in Kuwait as director of public relations and at **Suwa** Al Shuaab as economic reporter before Al Aswaq purchased the faltering paper. Ms. Masri has taken various career improvement courses including one that may suit her campaign aims — a social gender course by UNIFEM. Thus far she is the only woman journalist to announce her intention to contend a parliamentary seat.



Fardous Al Masri

LUCKY THEM: News of two other senior ministers was missing from local reports recently as they have been travelling on leave, to the envy of some of their colleagues. Deputy Prime Minister **Jawad Anani** was in Washington, D.C. for a medical check-up and there met unofficially with some State Department officials. Dr. Anani later spent the rest of his time on holiday in Canada. Minister of Planning **Rima Khalaf-Huneidi** is in Portland, Oregon in the U.S. with her husband and children spending some vacation time before school starts. The ministers that could not get away can at least enjoy Jordan's unseasonably cool August climate.

THEIR ROAD WORKS: The twists and turns of two Amman engineers did not go unnoticed last week. Amman Municipality Under-secretary **Falah Omoush** and head of the Execution Department **Saleh Swadiah** were each awarded the Kawkab Medal for their work in completing the tunnel configurations at the Third Circle. Mr. Omoush's medal was of the second order, and Mr. Swadiah's was of the third. Both men are civil engineers who began work with the municipality shortly after obtaining their degrees in the early 1980s. Mr. Omoush is a graduate of Bishawar University in Pakistan, and Mr. Swadiah graduated from Bucharest University in Romania.

PART OF A LEGACY: This week the J.T. bids farewell to another page editor trooper. She is **Carolyn Sedway** who promised to stick to the Home News page for one entire year, and that she did. Now Carolyn heads back to the U.S. where more than likely she will put her University of California Berkeley degree to good use in environmental protection projects, nutrition campaigns and the promotion of Brazilian vocalist **Caetano Veloso**. It is no small feat to have survived page 3, and all hats are off to Carolyn who will be missed for many attributes among them, establishing a no-smoking section at the J.T. and delicately alerting us to some of the latest in political correctness and a sundry of modern-day sensitivities, not all of them taken too seriously we might add. See you in Maine!

Jennifer Hamarneh

PAIR SEASON: Some are visiting, others are moving back, but power couples are making the news.

The grand communicators **Sima Buhous** and **Ziad Rifai** have returned from Yemen and are shopping for their new home in Amman. Dr. Rifai will remain in the United Nations loop but will be joining a new venture. His new post is as regional advisor for Population Communication in the Middle East for the Country Support Team. His employment is through UNESCO, and the CST, which is comprised of different experts from various U.N. agencies, is funded by the United Nations Population Fund. Dr. Buhous has several options which could take her back to the U.N. or bring some U.N. organisations together with a major local NGO for something innovative. Their daughter, **Jihan**, who will celebrate her first birthday on September 8, is practising steps and strides in her walker.

Rolling Stones announce launch of world tour

By **Ellen Wulffhorst**
Reuter

NEW YORK — The Rolling Stones Monday announced the details of an upcoming world tour, promising appearances in intimate clubs as well as cavernous stadiums that hold tens of thousands of fans. Arriving with typical bravado in a red 1955 convertible Cadillac, the band members disclosed the details of their Bridges To Babylon tour under the shadow of New York City's landmark Brooklyn Bridge. The dramatic skyline of Manhattan stood across the East River.

The tour kicks off on Sept. 23 in Chicago and wraps up next Summer in Europe after shows in South America and South East Asia. Mick Jagger said. Appearances will range from clubs and theatres with 2,000 or 3,000 seats to more traditional arenas, stadiums and racetracks, the band said. The smaller venues are a

chance to experiment a bit, guitarist **Keith Richards** said.

"You want to touch the base, go back to where you came from," he said. "It gives us a chance to change the music. For us, it stops it from becoming rote."

Jagger, 54, joked with reporters whom he said always want to know if this would be the band's last tour.

"There's one thing I've always wanted to do," he said, jumping into the audience and turning to face the remaining band members on stage.

"Is this going to be your last tour?" he asked them. "Yeah, this and the next five," replied the graying, 53-year-old Richards.

Outside heavy security a crowd of fans waited, hoping for a glimpse of the rock 'n' roll legends.

"They're awesome. They're going to set a world record with this tour," said **Anthony Anello**, a fan from a nearby suburb.

"Anybody who doubts them will be proved wrong again. They're going to show these young bands how to do it."

Others, like 13-year-old **Amanda Nicodemus**, were less impressed. She attended the Stones event because her parents own the Vintage car rented by the band for the occasion.

"I think they're old," she said with a bored shrug. "They look old."

Bridges To Babylon, the Stones' new album on Virgin Records, is set to be released on Sept. 30, Jagger said.

The album is "full of fancy," said guitarist **Ron Wood**. "That's the funk and dance."

It is the band's first studio album since **Voodoo Lounge** in 1994, when they staged their last world tour and reportedly earned more than \$400 million.

The British band first began touring in the early 1960s and rose to stardom with such hits as **Jumpin' Jack Flash**, **Satisfaction**, **Brown Sugar**, **Gimme Shel-**



The Rolling Stones rock 'n' roll band, (left-right) **Charlie Watts**, **Mick Jagger**, **Keith Richards** and **Ronnie Wood**, pose for photographers under the Brooklyn Bridge in New York after a press conference where they announced plans for their upcoming **Bridges To Babylon** world tour (Reuter photo)

ter, **Beast Of Burden**, and **Sympathy For The Devil**. The average ticket price will be \$55, said promoter

Michael Cohl. The tour is sponsored by **Sprint**. Among the bands slated to open for the Stones are **Blues**

Traveller, **Sheryl Crow**, **The Foo Fighters**, **The Dave Matthews Band** and **The Smashing Pumpkins**.



Listen to this, Mr. Biltaji!

AFTER MY idea of turning refuting into a lucrative business was totally ignored by this government, I almost gave up brainstorming till the next government, expected soon after the elections. But it is not the time for patience or optimism because what I now have in mind calls for immediate action!

I am hopeful that this time I will get a listening ear from the Ministry of Tourism especially after I hailed **Akram Masarweh**'s feet at a time when he was using them against fellow journalists and because I almost proved, as Jordanian as he is, that he is Egyptian royalty and more so than King Farouq, may he be in heaven, which in turn allows Masarweh to claim the pyramids. If they don't give him the pyramids he could wave in Egypt's face the demand that all his relatives displayed in museums are properly buried!

What raises my hopes further, is that what I have developed now is our kind of industrialism since after it was successfully applied in Yemen, it is now more like an act of copying than risky innovation. Who is to say that **Akel Biltaji**, our current minister of tourism, is not our way out of being in the red all the time?! Listen to this Mr. Biltaji: As I salute our brethren in Yemen who beat us to developing a working version of Alternative Tourism, I warn you and the Central Bank that unless we move NOW on my following fabulous idea and develop it before it is registered as a trademark and have to pay hefty royalties, we will miss a great opportunity that may not pass our way again! Just picture this advertisement hanging on the walls of acclaimed travel agents all over the world:

GET KIDNAPPED IN JORDAN

— Free airplane hijacking by an innocent looking woman even before your kidnapping is official —
Old PFLP style!

— Airport-To-Desert transportation on one-humped camels with individual seating half the trip, then group piling until hideout!

— Ottoman style guns used by hard-looking men with full moustaches and acting as if comprehensively frustrated!

— Floor accommodation under tents made from real goat hair in WADI RUM with opportunity to dig your own toilet when nature calls!

— Three meals of genuine Jordanian home cooking, all-night tent service with a frown and an open bar to help you forget your worries!

— Your chance to visit Petra handcuffed!

(Chaining with a self-proclaimed tour guide who promises to free you or make you rich by selling you a genuine artifact for next to nothing, available at an additional cost)

— No foul language used in front of children and crèche is available if you choose to try our Persian style lashing service or 'confession style' massage by foot!

— Bathe in the open air twice:

Once in the DEAD SEA and another in the RED SEA with a herd of young men gawking at you!

(local block of olive oil soap 'Al Jamal brand' and a loofah guaranteed to peel off your skin instead of a suntan supplied upon request)

— ISO 2009 approved!

— Special Deal For Experienced Masochists —

Hold a dialogue with Jordan's current government!

Knowing the tremendous amount of morons who will go for this idea, there is a pretty good chance some of their family members of similar IQ will think it is all for real and be willing to pay ransom! What a way to make legal money fast and it surely beats trying to get the peace process on track as a way to better our economy!

Talking about masochists, this will also be a good solution to our frail local tourism industry. The fact that this specific government is working hard to better life in Jordan, people are starting to miss the good old days. Instead of turning to alien behaviour in the streets of Amman, they could become tourists in their own country, a concept that is not very hard to teach them if you come to think about it. To make them feel privileged, we will charge locals a fraction of what we charge foreigners, just like you are doing now.

Better yet, why not devise a tour for young Jordanian males only? Actually Mr. Biltaji, down with the whole idea of alternative tourism for foreigners. If you just adopt the idea of a REAL GOOD tour for nationals, not only do I personally guarantee the government great income, but man how much will it encourage regular tourism and keep our face at the same time!

We can advertise it short:

Stop harassing my wife, for a small sum of money you can get kidnapped by a blonde!

[illegible]

Multilingual King Lear woos Asian audience

By Devi Ramachandran
Reporter

SINGAPORE — Old faces new and east meets west are popular themes in Asian drama.

But several Asian cultures, collaborating on a modern version of a Shakespearean play in five different languages, are a first.

Lear is commissioned by the Japan Foundation Asian Centre and produced by Theatreworks, a private Singapore drama company.

The play is based loosely on Shakespeare's tragedy, King Lear casting prominent actors from Japan, Singapore, Thailand, China, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The actors perform in their respective languages, traditional styles of drama and costumes.

A Japanese actor, dressed as a traditional masked Noh player, takes on the roles of Lear and his wife.

A Chinese actor, in Beijing Opera finery, plays Lear's eldest daughter Goneril.

Other performers speak in English, Thai, Bahasa Malaysia and Indonesian.

Japanese theatre-goers will be given a Japanese text when Lear premieres in Tokyo on Sept. 9 as a form of "road map."

A new dramatic quest

The aim of this bold experiment, says director Ong Keng Sen, is to "seek a new Asian identity" in drama.

"Asian languages may be different but everyone has the same feeling as far as art is concerned," Jiang Qi Hu, the Chinese Opera singer who plays Goneril, said.

"Lear will have a great impact on Asian art forms," he said.

"This kind of project needs great artistic sup-

port," said Naohiko Ume-waka, the Noh artist who plays Lear and his wife by switching masks. "In terms of vulnerability this is super modern."

Ong said previous attempts at creating multi-cultural plays had failed because they were in one language that destroyed the cross-cultural basis.

"I want these cultures to exist as one but not in an amalgam which would reduce their difference," Ong said.

"Any culture would require translation to understand this production entirely. By making Lear in one language, I would also be excluding important Asian artists."

The performers also include Javanese and Sumatran dancers and pop entertainers from Singapore and Japan.

Singapore comedian Najip Ali plays the fool, Japanese pop artist Hattori Katagiri plays the woman who provides a modern perspective to the unfolding events.

Thai male dancer Peera-mon Charnthavar plays Cordelia, Lear's faithful youngest daughter.

The 35 cast members first met in Singapore last year at a workshop called South East Asian Laboratory.

A world apart

The plot of Lear, described by Ong as "a passionate drama of conflict between father and daughter," was penned by Japanese scriptwriter Rio Kishida and differs greatly from the original Shakespearean story line.

The play seeks to merge traditional art with a contemporary plot.

"We are moving into the 21st century looking for alternatives and seeking a new Asian identity," Ong said.



Two actors playing the shadow of King Lear's elder daughter rehearse their role. Lear is commissioned by the Japan Foundation Asian Centre and produced by Theatreworks, a privately owned drama company. Based on Shakespeare's King Lear and showcasing a cast of prominent actors from around the region, the play is expected to be performed in Singapore in 1998 (Reuter photo)

The new Lear also hopes to redefine the relationship between the old world and the new, he said.

Kishida created the character of Lear's wife, who is not in Shakespeare's play, to offer an alternative view of the world.

"Contemporary can be seen to be a redefinition of tradition," Ong said. "Once ballet was viewed to be modern in relation to traditional dance. But today ballet is part of the old world."

Lear is a response to changing cultural contexts and the need to recognise that there is no dichotomy of tradition and modern, he said.

The production may come to Singapore in 1998 and then to the rest of South East Asia, Theatreworks said.

Mental athletes limber up for great meeting of minds

By Sharon Gerein

Competitors are preparing to get to grips with some 'serious fun' in what the organisers describe as 'the first global intellectual battlefield.' Gemini News Service reports on a tournament that reflects the growing popularity of mind games

LONDON — "Over your marks... Get set... Think!" Up to 4,000 mental athletes will receive the command to grapple with their grey matter in the first Mind Sports Olympiad in August.

"It's a serious competition — and it's play," says Tony Buzan, a British broadcaster, author and expert on thinking, creativity and learning who is one of the brains behind the cerebral sports challenge. "I guess 'serious fun' is a good way to describe it."

The international tournament, to be held at London's Royal Festival Hall on Aug. 18-24, brings together 39 "thinking" contests, including backgammon, bridge, chess, crosswords, Go, Scrabble, memory testing and creative thinking.

"The world is fascinated by mind sports and intellectual challenges," says Buzan, who estimates that

more than two billion people play mind games of some kind. With increased leisure time and more people now working from home, he predicts these pursuits will constitute a growth industry in the 21st century.

"There are world rugby, golf, swimming and other athletics' contests, so why not mind sports?" he asks.

Although there are already championships for various intellectual games, there has never been an Olympiad bringing them all together.

Besides individual categories, there will be multi-

event competitions — the "pentathlon" and "decathlon" (covering five and 10 skills respectively). Cash prizes total £100,000 — not enough to entice intellectual giants such as the computer Deep Blue and Gary Kasparov, ranked first and second in the chess world, to participate in the event.

Other prizes include return flights to New York on the supersonic airliner Concorde.

There will also be gold, silver and bronze medals. "Those will be immortal," says Buzan.

And there will be prizes for best families, schools and junior competitors aged under 16.

Mind athletes unable to travel to London can compete via the Internet, the worldwide computer link-up.

Mensa, the organisation for people with above-average intelligence quotient, will supervise the first IQ world championship as part of the Olympiad. And if bridge, computer programming and Chinese chess seem too highbrow for some, then jigsaw puzzles and draughts will also feature in this equal opportunity tournament with no barriers of age, race, sex, creed, nationality, physical ability or geographic location.

Most events will be organised according to a Swiss system, in which all contestants play in every round and the most consistent winners triumph.

According to Buzan, mind sports are not the domain of eggheads.

"One of our goals is to demonstrate that people who play mind sports are natural, normal human beings... from engineers to students to firemen. The system of scoring allows beginners to play with masters, and the nature of the tournament selects the top and the bottom."

He says, that, for many, exercising the brain goes hand in hand with flexing one's muscles. He points out that many mental gymnasts also train physically in the belief that a healthy mind cannot be achieved without a healthy body.

"Dominic O'Brien, the reigning world memory champion, does serious aerobic training months before a competition. He and many others work hard to keep themselves fit," says Buzan.

O'Brien can memorise a shuffled pack of cards in 39 seconds.

Unlike conventional international sporting events, there will be no random drug tests. Buzan says that even so-called "smart drugs" have only a marginal effect, whereas "training can improve the mind thousands of times."

"By simply keeping the brain active, people can live a longer and healthier life. It's the old 'use it or lose it' adage."

For those who do not want to compete, there is the opportunity to learn from the masters, and the chance to explore new games and analytical techniques.

"It's a massive education opportunity, where people can recognise that mind sports are great teachers of analytical and creative thinking, and of learning how to win and lose," says Buzan. It's a great training ground for the mind.

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Hollywood and former military bases — the perfect marriage

By David Klugman
The Associated Press

Hollywood rediscovers 'there's no place like home'

VALLEJO, California — On July 4, just after filming ended on the Dustin Hoffman movie Sphere, Warner Bros. executive producer Peter Giuliani won a red Honda in a community raffle.

He didn't need the new wheels. But luck has been on the Hollywood honcho's side ever since he chose a former navy base to film the \$73 million science-fiction thriller that also stars Sharon Stone and Samuel L. Jackson.

"I can't complain," says Giuliani, who had the car shipped to his mother in New Jersey.

The city of Vallejo, which oversees the 5,000-acre (2,000-hectare) Mare Island Naval Shipyard, isn't complaining either. Like other communities devastated by the shutdown of military bases over the past few years, Vallejo has rebounded by offering its facilities to movie companies willing to pay big bucks for the use of large, secluded spaces.

Al Da Silva, a Vallejo City official in charge of the redevelopment of Mare Island, says no single company can offer as many economic benefits as the movie industry.

"Of all the conversion things we've done, this is the one that really galvanised the community," he says.

"This has generated a lot of hope that ultimately the conversion will be better for Vallejo than having a shipyard."

In fact, the San Francisco Bay area's closed military bases are among Hollywood's most popular locations for filming. In addition to Mare Island, big-budget pictures have been made at Treasure Island (Coyote, James And The Giant Peach) in San Francisco and Alameda Naval Air Station (Disney's upcoming remake of Flubber) near Oakland.

Area bases have been used in making 11 major movies in the past 18 months, more than anywhere else in the country, says California Film Commission Director Patti Archuleta.

She calls it "the perfect marriage" for a beleaguered city like Vallejo, eager to recoup lost revenues and film crews that love the controlled atmosphere of abandoned bases.

Her biggest complaint is that the military reacts too slowly to accommodate the movie industry's breakneck schedules. The makers of Demi Moore's G.I. Jane wanted a sublease to film at Fort Ord near Monterey, but went elsewhere because of bureaucratic hang-ups.

"They lost a very, very important opportunity for that area," Archuleta says. "I guess it's because the military is not in the business of real estate."

Before Sphere began filming, parts of Eddie Murphy's Metro and Jack with Robin Williams were shot at Mare Island. But Sphere was different, because the blockbuster project lasted more than a year, and that meant millions of dollars for Vallejo's economy.

The producers of Sphere were awed not by old military equipment but by Mare Island's huge, high-ceiling hangars, perfect for the elaborate sets needed for the underwater action flick based on Michael Crichton's bestseller.

The city subleased about 10 per cent of its industrial space to Warner Bros. For \$300,000, far cheaper than similar space near Los Angeles, Giuliani says.

Nearly all the filming was done in a 12,000-square-kilometre warehouse where seven giant steel and cement tanks were built to shoot the underwater scenes.

Production headquarters were set up at a former navy recreation centre.

"This facility is a virtual gold mine," Warner Bros. location manager Michael John Meehan says. "There's really nothing else like it."

The studio preferred the former military shipyard, mostly for the mammoth spaces but also because it's

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Like Dorothy in that Wizard movie, Hollywood is learning "there's no place like home."

After a decade of runaway production to locales such as Canada, New York and Florida, Hollywood is rediscovering its own back yard, transforming the landscapes and landmarks of Tinseltown into a colossal backlot.

Down in Long Beach Harbour where the Queen Mary floats at anchor for tourists, the giant dome that once housed Howard Hughes' "spruce goose" became the bat cave in the last two Batman movies.

Downtown L.A.'s gilded, roccoco Herald Examiner building, where publisher William Randolph Hearst once held court, hasn't printed a newspaper in a decade, yet it's busier than ever as a popular filming location. So is the long-shuttered Ambassador Hotel, where movie stars went to see and be seen at the legendary Coconut Grove.

Deactivated military bases throughout California have gotten into the act, too, including George Air Force Base in neighboring San Bernardino County. The desert facility fended off other worldly attackers in last summer's Independence Day and also hosted Jodie Foster as the alien-seeking astronomer in this summer's Contact.

And giant movie monsters love L.A. In the upcoming Godzilla, the lizard that once lorded over Tokyo stomps around the 2nd and 3rd Street tunnels downtown. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Terminator got incinerated there and the fleeing Angelinos of Independence Day huddled in the tunnels' cavernous interiors.

Out in the San Fernando Valley, King Kong's movie cousin Mighty Joe Young went on a gorilla rampage in front of the trendy cafes of Ventura Boulevard on a recent summer night.

One mountain range north, Apollo 13 director Ron Howard is using the Antelope Valley Desert where the space shuttle lands as background for his 13-part HBO series, From The Earth To The Moon.

This renewed love affair with Los Angeles and the surrounding region is largely the result of resurgent civic pride in Hollywood as emerald city of the world's film industry. In Los Angeles County alone, the total number of productions increased by nearly 30 per cent from 1995 to 1996.

Other areas of southern California report similar increases. A unified front by the California Film Commission, the Los Angeles Film Commission — now known as the Entertainment Industry Development Corp. — and dozens of other, smaller commissions have helped bring Hollywood... well, back to Hollywood.

"The state (and Los Angeles) efforts to keep filming in the state has made enormous strides," said Ken Fix, location manager for Godzilla. He also worked on Independence Day.

The past two years have seen a drastic cut in filmmakers' red tape, which began to shroud about the time Los Angeles County and the city combined their film permit offices, Fix said.

"We have incredible logistics to put together," Fix said. "We use four or five hundred extras, 25-metre night lights, tanks, rocket launchers and we turn the city into a huge set... In doing movies, the fun is to be able to put these things together, but we really rely on the commissions for help."

Making sure the fun happens is an exercise in smoothing paperwork and permits, said Pamela Powell, a spokeswoman for the California Film Commission.

"Cities and counties are realising that filming is an economic development tool," she said.

In the desert community of Ridgecrest, 160 kilometres north of Los Angeles, the film industry brought \$6.4 million to the small city. The nearby rock formation of Red Rock Canyon served as the Montana Paleontology dig site for Steven Spielberg's Jurassic Park.

"They got more money from the film industry than the \$6.6 million in their city budget," Powell said. "They're going to build an antique gas station out at the community airport, just so they have it for filming."

The push to keep Hollywood dollars near the film industry's hometown is fiercely competitive against other states that have developed their own aggressive film offices.

"I work like a thief because I want to make sure the work doesn't go to Arizona, Texas or New Mexico," said Jeff McNeil, a former cameraman who developed his own job as director of the Antelope Valley Film Commission.

The Cyprus-sized region of northern Los Angeles County traces the edge of the Mojave Desert and has a variety of "looks," terrain and ecosystems that suit the needs of movie makers, McNeil said.

"On the east side of the Antelope Valley, I have the look of Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico," McNeil declared. "On the west side, I have the plains states — Kansas, Nebraska and parts of Illinois."

To the southeast, the 27,000 square and largely arid miles (11,000 hectares) of San Bernardino and Riverside counties offer "Hollywood's largest backlot," said Sherry Davis, who runs the Inland Empire Film Commission with about 100 volunteer helpers.

"We'll get a retired senior... who knows where there's an old abandoned mine, or something with a special look," she said.

far from star-struck gawkers yet still close to Hollywood. Hoffman liked the location because he could fly into nearby Napa Airport in his private plane, Giuliani says. And the site was a short drive for director Barry Levinson, who lives nearby.

A victim of military cutbacks, Mare Island closed on April 1, 1996, after 142 years in operation. The shipyard helped fortify America's sea power, from paddle wheelers to nuclear submarines.

Despite a party that included a parade, biplane aerobics and paratroopers, the shutdown was a sad day for Vallejo, about 50 kilometres northeast of San Francisco. As many as 7,000 people were left jobless and Vallejo was stripped of its cultural identity.

"All of the town went through a denial thing," Da Silva says. "Doom and gloom set in. The ray of hope that the community felt came from the movie industry."

Da Silva estimated that the makers of Sphere spent \$20 million in the local economy, money used on everything from buying lumber to hiring graphic designers for intricate special effects to apartment and hotel rentals.

Which isn't to say Warner Bros.' decision was a charitable one. Sphere production manager Pat Churchill says it didn't matter to them whether Vallejo benefited from the crew's presence, although the company did take out an ad in the local newspaper thanking the people of Vallejo for their cooperation.

"Our decisions are based solely on the film," she says. "You're looking for what's right for that film."

Likewise, Vallejo officials aren't necessarily interested in the success of Sphere, although they may throw a party when the movie premieres around Christmas-time.

"From our perspective, we couldn't care less," Da Silva says.

Da Silva may not have a vested interest in the box-office receipts, but he does hope the movie goes over budget. That would mean more benefits for the community.

Says Da Silva: "The more mistakes they make, the more money the city gets in return."

Brain strain

- Who's apt description is contained in: 'Fit on, cheering angel'?
- What number is next in this sequence: 3, 10, 24, 52?
- What number should be shown in the bow tie?
- What nine-letter English word has only 3 T's - one at the start, one in the centre and one at the end?
- What number is next in this sequence: 2, 4, 8, 56?

Answers:

1: Florence Nightingale 2: 108
3: 336 4: Treatment 5: 3128

Muslims urged to donate kidneys as patients die

Religious leaders in several countries are seeking to end a traditional reluctance among Muslim communities to support organ-donor schemes. In Singapore this hesitance has led to loss of life among kidney sufferers

By Khaled Talib

SINGAPORE — Muslim kidney patients in Singapore are dying needlessly because of a traditional reluctance in their community to donate organs.

Islamic leaders in the city state are now trying to end the waste of life by encouraging more Muslims to become organ donors. They want the law changed to bolster efforts.

The Human Organ Transplant Act currently exempts Muslims. Other Singaporeans who die in an accident unless they have signed an opt-out form.

People who do not agree to donate their kidneys are not entitled to subsidised dialysis treatment or transplant operations under a scheme run by the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), a non-profit organisation.

In the past four years, 130 Muslims have died of renal failure because they could not afford the high cost of treatment, which totals about 3,000 Singapore dollars per month for dialysis. A transplant operation can cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

"A fatwa (Islamic religious ruling) has decreed that it is permissible for Muslims to donate their kidneys, so it is up to the community to decide whether or not they want to make a pledge," says the Mufti of Singapore, Syed Isa Semait.

"Success lies in the hands of the community, and they should be positive when making their pledges."

A religious body, the Muslim Kidney Action Committee (MKAC), wants to go further, and is now proposing that their community is covered by the terms of the organ transplant Act.

At present, only 6,600 people out of a Singapore Muslim population of more than 400,000 have made pledges to donate their kidneys.

But Ameer Ali Abdeali, chairman of the MKAC, says: "Our feedback so far shows that many Muslims want to pledge their kidneys. We want to make it easier for them to do so. And if they want to opt out, the door is open for them."

The committee, working under the auspices of the Muslim religious council, Muis, has also urged the minister-in-charge of Muslim affairs, Abdullah Tar-

mugi, to support a public-education campaign aimed at dispelling false notions about organ donation.

For example, some Muslims believe that if their kidneys are removed and transplanted into another person, they will be without these vital organs in the afterlife. Others have stated, on religious grounds, that a Muslim's kidneys should not be transplanted into a non-Muslim.

Another problem occurs over the requirement for next of kin to endorse the pledge form when a Muslim wishes to become a donor. In many cases, close relatives have declined to sign the form because of uncertainty about Islamic laws governing organ donation.

An average 1,200 pledge forms per year are not accepted there is no next-of-kin endorsement.

A report drawn up by the MKAC, says many Muslims are unaware that their kidneys will be taken only in the event of accidental death rather than death from natural causes, and that transplantation will be for life-saving purposes only and not experimentation.

The report says many kidney patients claim to be unaware that failure to opt

in to the donor scheme will disqualify them from subsidised dialysis. Patients who meet the NKF criteria have to pay only \$200 per month for treatment.

"In addition," says Amelia Champion, NKF's head of public relations, "we also offer a range of rehabilitation services for these patients that include education incentives for them and

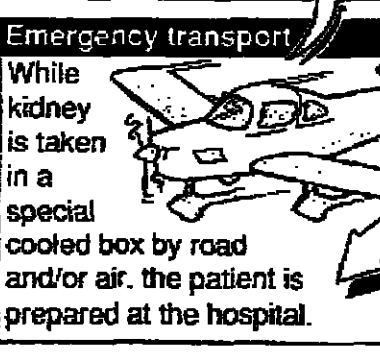
Kidneys: the race against time



Road accident...patient rushed to hospital



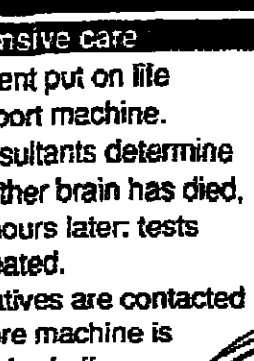
Intensive care
Patient put on life support machine. Consultants determine whether brain has died, 12 hours later, tests repeated. Relatives are contacted before machine is switched off.



Emergency transport
While kidney is taken in a special cooled box by road and/or air, the patient is prepared at the hospital.



Linking up
Central computer locates patient with nearest tissue-type to donor. Organisers contact local renal team to check whether patient is well and a theatre is available. If not, next best-suited person is tried.



How the UK Transplant Service does the job

First kidney transplant: 1950
Longest surviving kidney recipient: Johanna Rempel of Canada, who was given her twin's organ 37 years ago. Seven years after the operation, she gave birth to a baby boy



Removal
If consent is given, a renal team removes kidneys. They should be in a new body within 48 hours. Laboratory tests tissues to see if suitable local recipients available; if not, then kidney details are passed to transplant service.

Obesity — an epidemic for rich and poor alike

LONDON (R) — Obesity has become an epidemic in both rich and poor nations, researchers said.

A problem on its own, the epidemic will also spawn epidemics of diabetes, heart disease, cancer and stroke. Per Bjorntorp of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden warned.

He said one in five adults was overweight enough to be considered clinically obese. "These frequencies mean that countries such as the U.K., France and Germany each have five to 10 million inhabitants who are obese and need treatment," he wrote in a review article for the Lancet medical journal.

"A medical problem of this size is probably beyond the capacity of even the best health care system."

Countries worst hit could spend between three and eight per cent of their total health budgets in treating obesity-related disease, "proportions at least as great as those for all cancers

or AIDS," he said.

Obesity is defined as having a body mass index — weight in kilograms squared divided by height in centimetres — of more than 30. Someone with a BMI of 25 to 30 is overweight, while a BMI of 30 to 35 is considered normal.

While obesity had been considered a disease of affluence, it was hitting developing countries too, he said. "In China the prevalence of obesity is only a few per cent but there are indications of a rise there, too," he wrote.

"In Australian Aborigines and in Polynesians figures approaching 80 per cent have been recorded."

Prevention was most important, Dr. Bjorntorp said. He said studies showed it was easy for people to stick to a diet of 500 to 600 calories less than usual a day and to lose weight on it.

Gene found that makes hearts grow

By Maggie Fox
Reuters

LONDON — British researchers said they had found a gene that seems to help make the heart grow in response to strenuous physical exercise.

They said their finding could help doctors prevent heart attacks in people at risk of developing an enlarged heart.

Steve Humphries and colleagues at University College Hospital in London said their studies on army recruits showed the gene, a variant of a well-known gene called "ace," seemed to control growth of human heart muscle.

The hearts of cadets who completed a strenuous 10-week training course and who had the ace gene variant showed 25 per cent more growth than cadets who had some other variant of the gene.

"This is an enormous difference in the growth of the heart compared to the men who did not have the variant gene," Hugh Montgomery, a cardiologist who worked on the study, said in a statement.

The results were so startling that some people doubted them. "It's caused a little difficulty getting this paper published because everybody looked at this and said 'no this can't be right,'" he added in a telephone interview.

"These results are strangely powerful and we have to

New test for heart disease tried on humans — report

WASHINGTON (R) — A new, non-invasive test for heart disease that uses ultrasonic microbubbles to monitor cardiac blood flow has been effective in its first clinical trial on humans, researchers reported.

The test involves the injection of tiny bubbles made up of insoluble, high molecular weight gases into a vein, researchers from the University of Virginia wrote in the current edition of the journal Circulation.

The bubbles flow with the blood into the heart, and give off a signal that can indicate how fast the blood is flowing, the scientists said in a statement.

"If there is no flow, then we know there is blockage in the coronary artery," said Doctor Sanjay Kaul, lead author of the study. "Most people who die from heart attacks have clogged arteries."

Current tests to monitor blood flow cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000 and take at least one day to complete, the scientists said. The new test, known as myocardial contrast echocardiography or MCE, costs about \$300 to \$400 and takes only 15 to 20 minutes.

Dr. Kaul said one possible application for MCE would be in emergency rooms, where some 5 million people annually come in complaining of chest pains.

Electrocardiography is effective in diagnosing only about one-third of those patients having heart attacks, he said. The other two-thirds are often admitted for further tests, a process that he said costs U.S. health care systems \$10 billion a year.

"Having an accurate diagnostic tool for heart attacks in the emergency room could save millions of dollars in determining which patients have normal blood flow to the heart muscle and more importantly, help doctors provide immediate treatment to patients with acute heart attacks," Dr. Kaul said.

But Dr. Montgomery said he was not entirely surprised.

The ace gene controls an enzyme known as angiotensin-converting enzyme. Ace closes down the capillaries, keeping blood pressure up and making the heart work harder.

was a bad thing but it could be in some people, the researchers stressed.

"It is important to point out that the growth in the hearts of these young men was absolutely normal and appropriate for the amount of exercise they were undertaking," Dr. Montgomery said.

The recruits showed no real differences in their blood pressure, but it could be that, in those who had the extra heart growth, blood pressure shot up during exercise, Dr. Montgomery said. This would be difficult to measure.

Where the gene could be important is in those who have high blood pressure — about 23 per cent of the population in Britain. One-quarter of people with high blood pressure develop an enlarged left ventricle of the heart, which increases the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Dr. Montgomery said more tests were already under way and the group hoped to report next year.

Drugs known as ace inhibitors reduce the risk of abnormal heart growth and are widely used to treat high blood pressure.

Dr. Montgomery said the findings could increase the popularity of the drugs, which have milder side-effects than other blood pressure drugs.

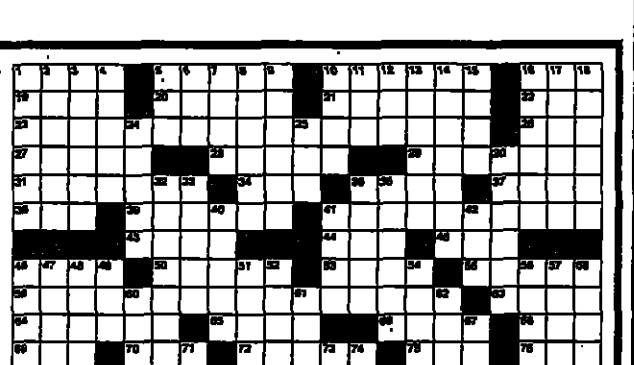
The research, which was funded by the British Heart Foundation, was published in the journal Circulation.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES
By Chuck Deodone

ACROSS
1 — The Kruks (Jewish name)
2 — Begun
3 — Main research center
4 — Browne talk
5 — Dies —
6 — British
7 — Raps
8 — Concomitant
9 — De Brito's gold
10 — Start of a child's comment
11 — John Landers
12 — Striking caller
13 — Japan's city
14 — Slendering one
15 — Rodent arena
16 — Ab — (from)
17 — "per se" (Latin)
18 — Kind of stone
19 — Kind of move or song
20 — DOWN
21 — Prayer book
22 — Personal habit
23 — Attached
24 — Walls
25 — Seductive West
26 — Ab — (from)
27 — (acronym)
28 — Gratitude
29 — Move
30 — Playwright
31 — Engine
32 — Inflicting mark
33 — Slendering
34 — Quantity, abbr.
35 — Doves a trade look
36 — Home of the
37 — Storm flash
38 — Storm
39 — Origin
40 — Designer Giorgio

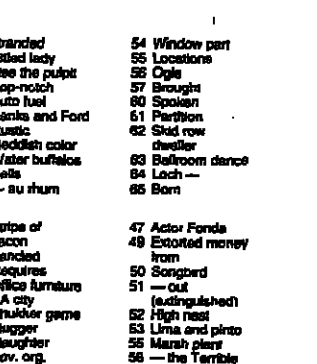
DOWN
1 — Skin problem
2 — Military vessel
3 — Unsubstantiated
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Diagramless, 17x17
By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 — Omelet
2 — Spirit
3 — Underneath
4 — Division word
5 — Attraction
6 — Mr. Mabel
7 — Acrobatic feat
8 — Omelet
9 — Omelet
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35 — Omelet
36 — Omelet
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40 — Omelet

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Poor onion farmer holds back tears as he works in the fields on his bumper crop which will earn him much riches.
2. Unlucky cute child knocked toys and kickknocks off the shelf.
3. Henpecked chicken farmer found respect and domestic peace as he began to emulate his big loud rooster.
4. When a hawk attacked, the scared dove dove down to her little, down-lined, woven nest and hid.

CRYPTOGRAMS
1. WHITE GUY GRAINS CUES GNEC OPHM. OYUPERPA WY TUMP. VS WUTTSE "UYEHCROPT" OPHMCUP? — By Ed Haddock

2. MTORE LDECDT SUS ROMNE GITH. LV AVDS BITEK CAVL CUPV BI LIES RITP GOERCOCDT GLUED COVERD STUOS. — By K.C. Doyle

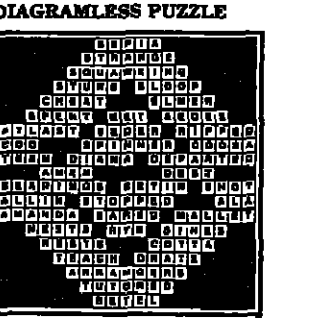
3. HOT HERERE CARS KEN FLDAL ELPFOPT SDL MEX KELX MEXICAN. — By Barbara A. Bagg

4. ZKOLSM EPFLUCK EWR TRCCSM MPAWN RCW ZPAWH NEWTOWN TROTS UP TROTS. — By Frank N. Sals

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. (a) Adoption of new methods of agriculture with high yield hybrid seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and intensive cultivation, to increase agricultural production.

(b) An informal unwritten agreement based on good faith.

(c) Mixing of race; interbreeding, intermarriage or sexual intercourse between different races, especially whites and coloured peoples.

2. (a) International Teleprinter Exchange.

(b) Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.

(c) Middle East News Agency

3. Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma.

4. He said she had a beautiful voice and asked her to sing.

5. The wolf said it is easy to be brave from a safe dis-

ance.

6. The Artful Dodger

7. Hans and Fritz

PUZZLES

(A) 4. (In each row, subtract the second number from the first and multiply by four).

7 - 6 = 1x4 = 4

(B) Rook and Crook (C+ rook = crook)

(C) EACH.

Irel

to

He O'Sullivan

He may be born in Transylvania, the most famous vampire, had

He is not the first to read "Dracula" by Bram Stoker's tale of blood, immortality, and Romania's vampire Prince Dracula.

His creator was a Dubliner as a Veal or Beckett

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Tourism in Palestine — the need to reverse the decline

By Glenn Bowman

THE ISRAELI authorities have maintained a policy of trying to limit the growth and development of the Arab tourist sector and to even degenerate it over time, with the hope that they can finally eliminate it completely from the market place.

So said the Higher Council for the Arab Tourist Industry in a report to the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Tourism Within Sustainable Development in 1993. That this project has in large part been successful is glaringly evident to any observer of the pertinent statistics.

Whereas 69 hotels were operating in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank in 1964 (20 of which were "three star" and above) the number of hotels had, by 1990, fallen to 40. At that time the total rooms provided in these hotels was 2,371, compared to the 32,617 rooms provided by the 305 Israeli hotels. That situation in the hotel sector has continued to worsen since 1990; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reported that in late April 1991, "only two of the 34 East Jerusalem hotels were open for business."

The tour guide business has been even more devastatingly stricken. In 1966, there were 202 guides licensed by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism to work in Jerusalem and the West Bank; 54 of these were "class A" guides licensed to tour all of the West Bank and Jordan, 120 were "class B," restricted to specific regions, and 28 were site-specific "class C" guides. By 1989, only 87 Palestinian guides retained licences (48 of whom are graded to work in Israel and the West Bank while 39 can only work within the occupied territories, excluding Jerusalem); only 72 of them

were actually working. At the time, 4,300 Israelis held full tour guide licences and over 3,000 of them were active.

Similar "degeneration" has been evident in the restaurants, travel agencies, tourist goods retailers and the like, to the extent that tourism, which between 1948 and 1967 had developed into the West Bank's largest source of service income, has, after 30 years of occupation, been rendered negligible. During the first year of occupation, tourism provided Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza (excluding East Jerusalem) with \$17m, 74 per cent of the total receipts from services, but by 1987 it returned only \$15m (two per cent), out of total receipts from services of \$768m (largely earned by Palestinians working in Israel for Israeli-owned businesses). In the same period Israel's earnings through tourism services went from \$52m, ten per cent of total service earnings of \$509m, to \$1.35bn, 28 per cent of \$4.8bn. In purely economic terms, then, the Palestinians of the territories have been stripped of a major source of self-generated income and left as wage slaves to an economic system controlled by their occupiers. The actual implications are in fact even more dire than they appeared in 1987, in so far as then Palestinians were able to earn livings working for Israeli businesses in Israel, whereas now the vast majority of those workers have been cut off from their sources of income.

But the implications of the destruction of Palestinian tourism extend beyond the economic. Tourism provides a forum where visitors from outside can meet some local residents and get acquainted by them with their interpretations of the region and of the lives lived within it by its inhabitants. Israel has, since taking con-

trol of the territories in 1967, used tourism as a powerful device for promoting internationally a vision of itself as a bastion of Western democracy in the midst of a hostile sea of "Arab terrorists and Islamic fundamentalists." In so doing, it in large part succeeded in popularly legitimising its illegal and brutal occupation. Its systematic destruction of the Palestinian tourist industry deprived Palestinians of one of the only means they had of "making visible" their dispossession and oppression. Behind the expropriation of Palestinian tourism is a strategy of ensuring that visitors to "Israel" will encounter only Israeli interpretations of the situation.

provide employment and income for the Palestinian people and generate positive images of the Palestinian people living on their land for the consumption of visitors. It can also provide the foundations for the cultural revitalisation of a people whose traditional practices have been peripheralised and rendered well-nigh extraneous by the confiscation of lands, the impoverishment of agriculture and the ways of life it supports, and the confiscation of the means of displaying that culture to themselves and others. Contemporary tourism is not, as tourism largely was in the past, simply a matter of site-seeing. Ethnic tourism is a very large factor in

rently in serious decline, would be resuscitated by the development of sophisticated marketing to tourists and pilgrims. The promotion of Palestine's distinctive cuisine and the presentation of Palestinian dance and music as a means of drawing visitors to dine in Palestinian restaurants and stay in Palestinian hotels would serve to convince Palestinians youth that their culture is not just a marker of what has been stolen but also a valuable resource on which to build a proud future. As recent studies in tourism have shown, ethnic revivalism for tourism can actually serve not only to resource skills and practices which may previously have been under-resourced but can

that all that may have changed is the means by which this can be achieved. With the advent of a degree of autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza, Israeli policy towards Palestinian tourism must by necessity alter its focus. Whereas before it could curtail and undermine Palestinian endeavours towards rebuilding infrastructure through the media of law and military dictate, in the future such subversion will be carried out through other means, especially those of "competition," "public relations" and subsidy. These efforts will centre on rendering the Palestinian tourism trade enviable in economic terms because it will appear unable to deliver the same quality of service as the Israeli industry, by ensuring that potential tourists will be drawn to the Israeli sector long before they reach the borders, and by continuing to subsidise Israeli tourism endeavours to an extent which cannot be matched by the far poorer Palestinian administration, much less by independent Palestinian businesses.

Need for superior services

Palestinian tourism will not survive by simply providing a service to tourists as good as that provided by the Israelis; if the much smaller and much poorer Palestinian sector is to compete, it can only do so by providing superior services. There is no question that, for the foreseeable future, there will be far fewer Palestinian than Israeli hotels, a much smaller cadre of trained guides and a far less extensive and endowed range of Palestinian travel agencies (both inside Palestine and abroad).

Undue haste in attempting to rectify these quantitative disparities is likely to prove disastrous. There is considerable evidence that the

Israeli ministry of tourism would like to see the Palestinian tourist trade shoot its bolt; its willingness to provide tour guide licences to underqualified guides is symptomatic, I believe, of a strategy of allowing a too-rapidly trained tourism sector to expose itself to the unforgiving gaze of international tourism as inadequate, underqualified and, in a word, inferior. If tourists and, more to the point, external tour operators learn from experience that the Palestinian sector provides inadequate services, they will simply avoid using Palestinian hotels, guides, agencies and the like and will commit themselves to the more reliable Israeli sector. They will not return.

However, and despite its diminutive size, the Palestinian sector has certain advantages which must not be overlooked. Many visitors to Jerusalem and the West Bank have told this writer that their treatment at the hands of Palestinians has been more sympathetic and far friendlier than that they have received from Israelis. Christian pilgrims generally find Palestinian guides (Christian or Muslim) much more sympathetic to their needs and interests than Israelis. Most have said that were they to return for another visit they would do their utmost to ensure that they would be guided and served by Palestinians rather than by Israelis. This goodwill, which I suspect has been augmented by increased awareness brought about by media reporting of the intifada and its aftermath of the nature of Israeli domination, must be exploited by the Palestinians, but this cannot be done by simply providing ill-trained people to add to the numbers of Palestinians with many years of experience in the field of "hosting" foreign visitors. Memories of a bad trip tend, unfortunately, to displace

earlier memories of good experiences, and unless the quality of new Palestinians working in tourism is up to the mark set by their forebears, the goodwill felt towards Palestinians will quickly be dissipated.

Future tourism to the Holy Land will not simply follow the course tourism has taken in the past. Ethnic tourism is a burgeoning market, and Palestinian culture is a commodity which must not be ignored in training the tourism service sector. People must be drawn to the areas under Palestinian control not by the fact that some notable sites are "unfortunately" located outside the borders of Israel but by a desire to experience the rich repertoire of Palestinian customs and cuisines. The current situation, in which Palestinian hotels and restaurants in the territories are ignored by busloads of tourists who make day trips to Bethlehem and Hebron and return to be entertained, eat and sleep in Israeli restaurants and hotels, can only be ameliorated by an intentional effort to make outsiders aware of the cultural riches resident in those territories.

And if visitors are to stay long enough to put money into the local economy, they must be provided with entertainment which will draw them to stay in the region into the evening and so stay in Palestinian hotels. The key is the promotion of Palestinian culture and the introduction of a Palestinian tone into pilgrimage and tourism into the area. This is something which will benefit all sectors of the economy and is one arena where the Israelis cannot compete.

Glenn Bowman is a social anthropologist working at the University of Kent. He has been doing field work in Israel and the occupied territories since 1983. This article is reprinted from the Middle East International.

"During the first year of occupation, tourism provided Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza (excluding East Jerusalem) with \$17m, 74 per cent of the total receipts from services, but by 1987 it returned only \$15m (two per cent), out of total receipts from services of \$768m (largely earned by Palestinians working in Israel for Israeli-owned businesses). In the same period Israel's earnings through tourism services went from \$52m, ten per cent of total service earnings of \$509m, to \$1.35bn, 28 per cent of \$4.8bn."

The rebuilding of the Palestinian network of hotels, guides, travel agents, restaurants and itineraries is therefore a vital step to reclaiming the land. It is only through introducing visitors to the Holy Land as a Palestinian land that Palestinians will be able to counter the image of Palestine as an Israeli land that the state-subsidised Israeli tourism machine has promulgated and popularised.

Palestinian culture — a valuable resource

The rebuilding of a Palestinian tourism infrastructure can, however, do more than

international travel, and Palestinians, in revitalising Palestinian tourism, will be able to present to visitors from the West, as well as to those from the Arab and Muslim Worlds, a rich repertoire of cultural practices and artefacts. Palestinian culture can be a strong selling point for a visit to Palestine, and the promotion of Palestinian traditions for the gaze of tourists will as well serve to mark the value of those traditions for Palestinians themselves.

Long-established artisanal skills such as olive-wood carving, mother-of-pearl work, embroidery and glass production, which are cur-

also renew traditions which might, without tourism, have languished from neglect.

Tourism, then, can play a major role in rebuilding the Palestinian economy, bettering the image of Palestine and Palestinians in the world outside, and revitalising Palestinian culture. This is its potential. There is little reason to believe, however, that since the Oslo accords Israel has in any way changed its policy towards the development of Palestinian-led tourism. There is a good deal of evidence that Israel still hopes to "finally eliminate it completely from the market place," and

Ireland stakes its claim to heart of Dracula

By Jane O'Sullivan
Reuter

DUBLIN — He may have been born in Transylvania but Dracula, the world's most famous fictional vampire, had Irish blood.

Ireland is not the first place that springs to mind on reading "Dracula". Bram Stoker's classic tale of blood, death and immortality, based around Romania's national hero, Prince Vlad of Transylvania.

But its creator was as much a Dubliner as Wilde, Yeats or Beckett and the city is this year marking the 150th anniversary of his birth and the centenary of Dracula's publication.

The Bram Stoker Society, a Dublin-based group of enthusiasts, is the driving force behind honouring Stoker whom it describes as "a truly remarkable Irishman". And if Dublin is at last recognising Stoker, students and academics are also discovering the Irish influences on his famous novel which has inspired more than 700 films since it was first published.

"In spite of all the novel's blood-bolstered Gothic backdrop of Transylvanian ravines and castles, it now seems very likely that the central inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula is as Irish as Molly Malone," Dracula enthusiast Clive Gammone wrote recently in the London Observer newspaper.

Authors Peter Tremayne and Peter

Haining argue as much in their new book, "The Undead: The Legend Of Bram Stoker and Dracula".

"There's no doubt that Dracula is Irish. No other country in the world has a greater claim on him," Tremayne has said. "The problem was that Stoker aimed his stories at an audience of 19th century readers in England who would not want to read the tale of an Irish vampire."

Banshees, burials, blood drunk from the vein

Born Abraham Stoker in the Dublin seaside suburb of Clontarf, Stoker was a pale and sickly child who did not walk until he was seven, leaving him ample opportunity to absorb his mother's grisly tales of banshees, burials and blood drunk from the veins of cattle during the Irish famine.

"Stoker lived in famine times and he saw people with their teeth sticking out with the hunger," says Dennis McIntyre, director of the Bram Stoker International Summer School. "I constantly argue that Dracula was very much Irish inspired. The mists, the rats, the wolves, all that stuff was really Irish."

Mr. McIntyre notes that Stoker's mother Charlotte came from Sligo where she lived through a terrible cholera epidemic in 1832.

"She saw people literally being pushed into the grave while still

alive and told him these stories as a young lad. Did he get the idea of this undead figure from one of those getting back up out of the grave?" he wonders.

Scholars also note that the Stokers' home was barely half a mile from Ballybough crossroads where suicides were buried and their hearts staked to prevent their unhappy spirits from wandering.

The family had a private tomb in Saint Michan's Church, famed for the grey corpses of Dublin's nuns and notables preserved by a special dryness in its vaults, and Stoker absorbed the peculiar Irish fascination with death.

Stoker overcame his early weakness to become an athletic and football champion during his time at Dublin University and lived until April 20, 1912.

He worked for 10 years in the civil service at Dublin castle, but spent his free time writing for the Dublin Mail newspaper as unpaid dramatic critic.

When he escaped his Dublin office job for a life in the London theatre he met his idol, actor Sir Henry Irving, and for the next 27 years worked as his manager, writing some 50 letters a day for him and accompanying him on his American tours, which inspired the pamphlet on American life "A Glimpse of America".

Turning to fiction late in life, he wrote "Dracula" at the age of 50 but never matched its suc-

cess with subsequent works, which included "The Jewel of Seven Stars" and "Famous Impostors".

Ireland finally honours its unsung hero

Now, after years of neglect, Ireland is at last showing signs of according Stoker some of the respect shown its other literary heroes.

"It is surely ironic that the tourist trade is more developed in Romania than in Stoker's native land but then, remember how long it took for James Joyce to be recognised as a national hero," says Leslie Shepard, chairman of the Bram Stoker Society.

Mr. Shepard developed his interest in Stoker while editing a three-volume encyclopaedia of occultism and parapsychology.

"He cropped up in it. And being here and finding he was not recognised like Joyce and Yeats were, I felt somebody ought to do something. I felt there was tourist potential there," he told Reuters.

The society's efforts since 1980 are beginning to pay off and Bram Stoker heritage tours of Dublin are being developed while the Irish postal service plans a series of commemorative stamps — to be issued at Halloween.

Lectures, seminars and an exhibition of Stoker memorabilia have been held to mark both anniversaries while the Irish edition of a book that has been translated

into every language and has never been out of print will be republished.

Stoker has even had a Clontarf Park named in his honour.

Vampire tourism takes off in Dublin

The seventh Bram Stoker Summer School, held in Dublin in July, attracted speakers from around the world for further discourses on a novel that has been read as everything from a simple allegory of the struggle between good and evil to a blatant demonstration of the Oedipus complex.

Participants were treated to addresses on vampirism and bats, the neuro-linguistic programming of Dracula and the reason Dracula has endured.

Still a best-seller, it remains second only to the Bible in popularity and has outsold the combined works of all of Ireland's other famous writers put together, McIntyre says.

He hopes to build a permanent visitor centre in Clontarf to attract students and fans from around the world to the suburb where Stoker was born.

"The idea is to reclaim Stoker and Dracula for Ireland. You can walk down the streets of Dublin to this day and ask somebody who wrote Dracula and where he was born and they wouldn't have a clue."

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Thursday 28th August 1997

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Jordan Steel, Housing Bank boost net profits during first half of '97

By Samir Ghawi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Steel Company achieved a major success as its sales jumped from JD0.67 million at the end of June 1996 to JD6.17 million at the end of June 1997. As a result of such a high growth the company posted a JD0.85 million gross profit.

After subtracting the depreciation and various other general and administrative expenses, the company's net profit at the end of the first half of this year stood at JD0.81 million. At the end of the first half of last year the net profit did not exceed few thousand dinars.

Other impressive figures appeared on the balance sheet as of June 30, 1997 with total current assets totalling JD7.26 million compared to JD3.13 million recorded on June 30, 1996.

Inventory was the main component of the 1997 current

assets in addition to JD1.23 million in cash on hand and in banks.

Net fixed assets were valued at JD17.35 million and another JD1 million of long-term investments in share of companies was included in this category.

Current liabilities rose from JD4.05 million to JD8.33 million as a result of bank credits increasing to JD6.7 million (JD2.35 million in 1996). Other current assets included short-term loans and payables for a total of JD1.06 million.

Long-term liabilities were halved to JD0.78 million, an amount that represents the long-term portion of a loan.

Noting that the company's registered and paid-up capital is JD15 million, the total shareholders' equity amounted to JD16.88 million.

The Housing Bank

The bank succeeded in doubling its net profit from JD5.08 million during the first half of 1996 to JD10.46 million at the end of June 1997.

Most of the income flowed from interest earned which grew from JD39.86 million to JD42.56. In addition, the bank earned JD11.67 million from "other income" during the first half of this year compared to JD3.51 million earned from this category in 1996.

The balance sheet as of June 30, 1998 showed total

assets at JD1.246 million of which JD664 million were credit facilities, JD216 million deposits at the Central Bank, JD188 million cash and deposits at other banks and JD58 million of investments in financial securities.

Clients' deposits reached JD955 million out of JD1.110 million of total liabilities. Shareholders' equity stood at JD125 million at the end of last June.

The Jordan Sulpho Chemicals Company

The company came out of the losses cycle after it achieved a JD120,646 net profit during the first half of this year compared to a JD717,456 loss posted during the first half of 1996.

This profit was realised from a growth in volume of sales from JD2.1 million at the end of June 1996 to JD3.3 million at the end of June 1997. The increase enabled the company to register an operational profit amounting to JD0.64 million (JD114,100 in 1996).

At the end of June 1997, current assets totalled JD4.03 million (JD4.42 million) but the largest items were in inventories which amounted to JD2.43 million and receivables which totalled JD1.16 million.

After deducting JD3.74 million of accumulated depreciation, the net fixed assets stood at JD4.42 million. By adding other various items, the total assets closed the first half of this year at JD9.00 million (JD9.52 million in

1996).

The mid-year financial results indicated that the company has reduced its short- and long-term debts to the Jordan National Bank and the Industrial Development Bank from JD4.5 million in 1996 to JD3.1 million in 1997.

After accounting for JD1.58 million of accumulated losses, the net shareholders' equity dropped to JD3.99 million (JD4.12 million in 1996).

The company which was established in 1983 to produce raw materials for the production of detergent, soap, shampoo and cosmetics has a JD6 million registered capital of which JD4.50 million is paid-up.

The Jordan Press and Publishing Company

Gross profit generated by the company rose from JD630,127 during the first half of 1996 to JD856,668 during the first half of this year.

After deducting administrative and general expenses the company, which publishes the Arabic daily Al-Dustour, recorded a JD365,634 net profit compared to JD260,425 in 1996.

Lower inventory were behind the drop of current assets from JD4.01 million to JD3.45 million. However, the current assets included JD1 million in cash on hand and at banks.

By adding the net fixed assets valued at JD2.85 million, total assets amounted to JD6.29 million.

The company closed its bank overdraft facility during the first half of this year and, as such, the indebtedness to the banks dropped from JD1.5 million to JD0.9, an amount representing a short-term loan.

This loan and other JD0.8 million of payables formed the total liabilities leaving JD4.56 million as the net shareholders' equity.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Broker lists reasons for weak prices, trading at AFM

** INVESTORS AND brokers offered conflicting views regarding the reasons for the continued weak prices and low trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), but most of those interviewed agreed on the absence of legislative framework, the strict monetary policy of the Central Bank and the worries of foreign investors over government plans were the main causes. The investors ruled out any hope of achieving gains in the near term due to unclear future outlook and cash strains especially after the huge losses incurred by many investors who traded at the market.

Some brokers pointed to the internal political situation with regard to the parliamentary elections and the troubled peace process with regard to the mistrust in the Israeli intentions towards peace as additional factors that damaged the performance of the stock exchange. Stressing these two elements was Mohammed Bahjat Bilbeisi, chairman and general manager of the National Portfolio Securities Company.

Mr. Bilbeisi attributed the retreat in the activity at the stock exchange to the political situation in the region, the frustration among the investors for not being able to reap the fruits of peace, the lack of progress on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks and the unclear political outlook in the whole region. He added the strict monetary policy of the Central Bank over the past four years to stabilise the dinar and boost hard currency reserves as another factor.

Other factors cited by Mr. Bilbeisi were:

1) A retreat in marketing Jordanian products to the Iraqi market.

2) Continued weak export activity in exporting to traditional Gulf markets.

3) Inability of Jordanian industries to open new markets to compensate for the aforementioned traditional ones.

4) Israeli barriers that restrict the flow of goods to the Palestinian territories.

Noting that all the mentioned factors have curbed the profitability of Jordanian companies, Mr. Bilbeisi continued to list the delay in issuing the amendments to most economic legislations, regarding income tax, Companies' Law, Securities Law and investment promotion, as yet another reason.

Also noting that the Royal endorsement of the decision regarding the Securities Commission and the names of the proposed board members has not yet been issued and that a government decision on the foreign ownership of shares has not yet been taken, the general manager underlined the importance of those two key steps to activate the stock exchange (Al Ra'i).

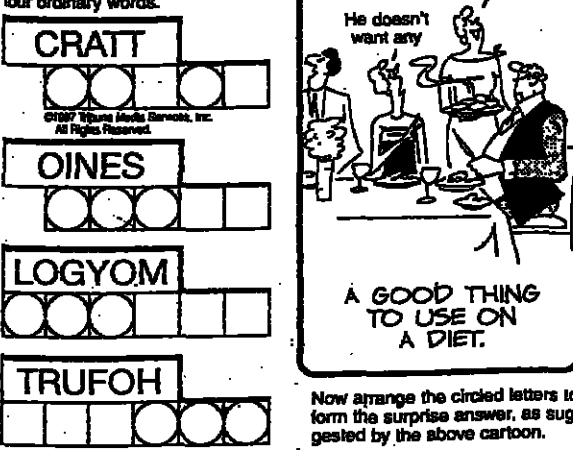
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"After I got engaged, my mother made sure I was prepared for married life. She got me a teddy bear that snores."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: C R A T T O I N E S L O G Y O M T R U F O H

Saturday's Jumble: DUNCE STROKE POROUS ABUSED

Answer: What the time turns did - PASSED THE BUCK

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SIDE 1501											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 20/08/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANSACTIONS	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
298,000	ANAB BANK	13.3	1.38	14	900	241,140	289.00	290.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
2,500	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	37	32,550	65,984	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5,800	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	11.0	2.83	1	1000	5300	5.30	5.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,800	BANK OF JORDAN	6.4	0.00	2	431	1210	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,100	MID. EAST INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	1	250	225	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
2,480	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.6	7.32	2	1250	3119	2.32	2.31	-0.01	0.00	0.00
5,200	THE HOUSING BK.	14.2	4.08	9	2472	11741	4.75	4.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
4,180	JOR. INVEST. BANK	11.0	0.00	2	1900	5690	3.14	3.10	-0.04	0.00	0.00
4,050	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	3.14	7	1060	4060	3.82	3.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,440	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	4	10000	9320	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 213.94	CHG: +0.18	79	52613	368108	
2,470	GENERAL AMAN INSUR.	13.2	7.56	2	583	1282	2.20	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
2,230	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.1	8.33	33	64600	113019	1.75	1.80	+0.05	0.00	0.00
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 114.76	CHG: +0.27	35	65183	114301	
1,820	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.2	6.92	51	23835	40633	2.69	2.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,790	JOR. TRID. ELECTRICITY	11.0	6.22	8	13600	25174	1.79	1.85	+0.06	0.00	0.00
1,550	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	18	9400	12954	1.35	1.39	+0.04	0.00	0.00
1,010	REAL ESTATE INV.	8.6	0.00	6	1400	1274	0.92	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
810	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	26.7	0.00	1	250	130	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
8,830	ALANA I	12.1	7.41	3	306	2066	6.80	6.75	-0.05	0.00	0.00
1,070	WID. EAST READY BLDG.	13.5	0.00	1	150	126	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
3,720	JORDAN INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.5	0.00	10	3273	10625	3.23	3.25	+0.02	0.00	0.00
1,230	ZAKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	250	248	0.99	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00
2,230	UNIFIED CO.	8.5	6.18	9	4200	7476	1.77	1.78	+0.01	0.00	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 111.39	CHG: +0.29	108	54769	100844	
4,450	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.8	2.76	23	39542	157448	3.99	3.98	-0.01	0.00	0.00
7,080	ANAB POTASH CO.	14.5	3.20	2	200	1245	6.10	6.25	+0.15	0.00	0.00
10,250	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.8	8.76	22	15973	16168	10.13	10.15	+0.02	0.00	0.00
1,470	MOJES INDUSTRIES	10.4	8.33	3	1500	1830	1.26	1.20	-0.06	0.00	0.00
3,260	INDUSTRIAL CORP. MGR.	9	0.00	4	1100	2988	2.82	2.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
7,150	JOR. WOODSTOCK HILLS	9.7	3.33	3	12450	7700	5.90	6.00	+0.10	0.00	0.00
4,270	JORDAN FOOD & RES.	11.4	4.82	32	7431	30791	4.15	4.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,330	ALFA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	3	1615	1863	1.16	1.15	-0.01	0.00	0.00
6,650	DAR ALAMAR DV. INV.	13.2	4.63	5	2450	11230	5.40	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
3,850	WID. EAST READY BLDG.	10.18	0.00	13	3100	7206	2.35	2.32	-0.03	0.00	0.00
960	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.4	0.00	21	12450	6096	0.48	0.49	+0.01	0.00	0.00
1,300	KHAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	31.5	0.00	6	7500	2022	1.03	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,200	INTERMED. PETRO. CORP.	9	0.00	8	7200	3032	0.56	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
980	JOR. ROYAL INDUSTR.	9	0.00	2	1500	975	0.66	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
920	JOR. SOLECO-CHEN	9	0.00	12	7500	4681	0.62	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,670	ANAB PHARM. CORP.	17.1	5.22	7	2200	2924	1.32	1.34	+0.02	0.00	0.00
1,430	720 KAWTHIR INVEST.	71.9	0.00	1	250	183	0.73	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,970	UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	7	0.20	40	15650	10929	1.28	1.29	+0.01	0.00	0.00
1,510	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	12.8	10.53	10	10850	17759	1.95	1.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,620	NATL. CLOTHING	14.3	4.61	16	5832	8904	1.54	1.52	-0.02	0.00	0.00
1,070	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	18	6850	5893	0.86	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
2,080	EL. SAYS READY BLDG.	53.5	0.00	14	7100	11016	1.49	1.52	+0.03	0.00	0.00
1,330	INTL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	7	7250	8330	1.15	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,200	UNION CH. & VEG.	45.9	0.00	18	16912	17084	1.01	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 123.13	CHG: +1.01	320	184195	420347	
GRAND TOTAL						INDEX: 164.86	CHG: +0.51	542	358760	1003600	
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 20/08/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANSACTIONS	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
650	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.9	0.00	6	6250	2563	0.41	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00
950	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	9	20297	11366	0.56	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
840	UNION INV. CO.	9	0.00	1	1450	320	0.71	0.70	-0.01	0.00	0.00
170	ANAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	1	3550	1195	0.39	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
950	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	9	0.00	3	4504	3917	0.87	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
950	AL-DARQIAH 751	70.1	0.00	31	80566	38226	0.71	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
320	ANAB FOOD & RES.	5.4	0.00	2	250	130	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
570	ANAB INTL. INV. TRD.	48.4	0.00	8	8000	3360	0.42	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
750	NATL. MULT. ENG. KANZOO	9	0.00	12	19450	9682	0.46	0.47	+0.01	0.00	0.00
1,370	JORDAN STEEL	31.8	6.45	15	10175	7633	1.56	1.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
730	HIDEWAY PHARM. 752	2	0.00	8	8150	2000	0.63	0.64	+0.01	0.00	0.00
670	KACI PHARM. 851	5	0.00	2	832	274	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
570	JORD. INV. TRD.	10	0.00	33	61250	20661	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
530	TEXTILE HANUF.	9	0.00	4	571	121	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
820	NATL. PORTFOLIO	2	0.00	8	6000	4140	0.67	0.69	+0.02	0.00	0.00

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'Lay off Ronaldo' says coach

MILAN (AFP) — Ronaldo won a pat on the back from teammates after his first goal for Inter Milan, but coach Gigi Simoni has told the rest of Italian football to lay off the 20-year-old.

Ronaldo, who had previously only played 17 minutes against Manchester United and 70 in Bologna, went the full distance against fourth division Pisa on Tuesday night.

The Brazilian, who stroked the ball home after just five minutes play, said: "I'm happy that I've scored my first goal in an Inter shirt."

"I've broken the ice just at the right moment. I thought Inter played well and that we are making progress with every match that goes by, and that's how it should be. The championship will be starting soon."

He went on: "The fans are expecting a lot from me? I know that, I hope I won't disappoint them."

Simoni was meanwhile heaping praise on his new striker, saying: "He did some great things out there tonight. He scored a goal and came close to getting more."

"He's able to give the squad more depth all on his own, which means that the rest of the side don't get pulled out of position. He can be dangerous with a single touch of the ball."

"He's obviously got to work on his physical condition, he's a bit behind and for that reason he's got to work more than the others."



Ronaldo

However, Simoni also launched an appeal for people to leave Ronaldo in peace.

Over the past few days, Juventus' honorary President Giovanni Agnelli has expressed doubts over

whether Inter will get a good deal out of Ronaldo, and Sampdoria's Argentine coach Luis Menotti claimed Ronaldo was better than Ronaldo and that Inter's man cared more about his sponsors than football.

Simoni said: "At this point, I'd like to make a request to all the people who are involved in football."

"We don't like all these opinions being aired about our players — I never say anything about teams that aren't mine. As far as Ronaldo's concerned, I don't want people to get into the habit of making a comparison about him every day of the week."

"We're not interested in

Menotti's opinion. And the day before that we had Agnelli's viewpoint."

"I am politely asking that this young lad be given a bit of peace. He's sensible and he's well-mannered: and I don't want him to learn to be anything else, just because of what has happened to him here."

"Please, just leave him in peace."

Ronaldo has two more friendlies in the spotlight (V AS Roma on Aug 22 and V Atletico Madrid on Aug 25) before the season starts on Aug 31.

The next big date which concerns him is September 4, when FIFA decide the full amount of his world record transfer fee from Barcelona.

African club champions create history

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — African club football history will be created on Friday when the First Champions League kicks off with matches in Algeria and Egypt.

The transformation of the Champions Cup, staged annually since the mid-1960s, includes prize money totalling \$3 million and a mini-league format instead of the two-leg knockout system.

Fittingly, one of the first clubs in action will be Zamalek, the Egyptian giants who won the Champions Cup a record fourth time last year by defeating Shooting Stars of Nigeria.

Other qualifiers for the round-robin phase include former champions

Orlando Pirates of South Africa, Club Africain of Tunisia and Raja Casablanca of Morocco.

Union Sportive Medina Alger of Algeria, Obuasi Goldfields of Ghana and surprise packets Primeiro Agosto of Angola and Ferroviario of Mozambique complete the line-up.

Zamalek and Pirates have been seeded to clash in the traditional two-leg final and only Club Africain seem capable of seriously troubling the Cairo Giants in Group B.

Pirates, the sole Southern African winners of the trophy, face a much tougher task in Group A as Raja, Usma and Primeiro impressed in previous rounds.

The Egyptian and South African representatives begin with home fixtures, then visit the other three clubs before completing tight schedules with two games before their supporters.

Each side received \$150,000 for reaching the league stage and a further \$450,000 is on offer over the next four months depending on the number of points won.

The finalists collect an additional \$225,000 each following the sale of television and advertising rights for the 24 matches to a marketing firm and television station in France.

Weah and Co. ready to go

MILAN (AFP) — George Weah believes that AC Milan's 3-1 victory over Juventus has lifted confidence here as they prepare for a fresh assault on the Italian League title.

The Liberian star scored the final goal in Tuesday night's rout and now reckons that last season's poor results — their worst in 15 years — are a thing of the past.

"We always expect things to go well, because we hope for the best," he told AFP. "But we're always determined to win against Juventus — sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't."

"This time, they dominated one half and we dominated one half, and we were successful. It was a good win."

Weah, FIFA's world player of the year in 1996, also played down the tension surrounding Tuesday's high-profile friendly.

"I'm always confident," he said. "It's a football game and someone has to win. It's nothing to be afraid of, we're not going to fight a war. I think everybody enjoyed the game and that counts for a lot."

"It was very important because it was our first big match of the season, even though it wasn't a championship game — it was a cup."

And now it's our cup, and it's good for the players' state of mind."

"Victory is good, and maybe now we're going to regain confidence when it comes to attacking our championship matches. It's all about confidence."

"Now we're going to work hard and get ready to go through the championship. We started off on the right foot and we want to stay on the right foot."

Former Davis Cup player named Italy's non-playing captain

ROME (AP) — Paolo Bertolucci on Monday was named to replace his former doubles teammate Adriano Panatta as non-playing captain of the Italian Davis Cup team.

Bertolucci, 46, takes on the post amid feuds among Italian Tennis Federation officials and only weeks before the Davis Cup semifinal against Sweden, scheduled in Norrköping Sept. 19-21.

The other semifinal in Washington, D.C., pits the United States against Australia.

Bertolucci teamed with Panatta on the Italian Davis Cup team which defeated Chile in the 1976 finals.

"The match with Sweden is very difficult, almost impossible for us. But we have nothing to lose and will fight hard," Bertolucci said.

Panatta, the long-time Italian Davis Cup captain, resigned July 25 following a dispute with the federation.

Torino sign Dorigo

TURIN, Italy (AFP) — Graeme Souness' Torino signed former Leeds and England defender Tony Dorigo on Wednesday, as part of their bid to return to the top flight of Italian football.

The deal — a one-year contract with an optional second year — had been agreed with the Serie B club earlier in the week, subject to a medical which the 31-year-old has now passed.

An attacking left-back, Dorigo's recent career has been dogged by injury problems and his contract at Leeds had not been renewed.

"I've come to Italy to play in the Serie A and I'm sure that with Souness in charge, I'm going to manage it with Torino," he said.

"I had other offers but Torino are too famous a team to turn down," he added. "My father has spoken to me about them a lot."

Dorigo's parents are Italian, though he was born in Melbourne after they had emigrated to Australia.

Torino's Secretary General Federico Bonetto told AFP: "We needed a player for that position and Souness wanted Dorigo. I think the club have made an excellent choice."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMARSHARIF
A TANNAN HIRSH

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
47 10 8 8 5 4 Q 3 2 A Q 3 2
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you bid now?
A - You want to play four hearts, no more, no less. The way to get there is to bid it right away. If you play transfer bids, transfer and then bid game.
- Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
A Q 10 8 5 4 10 9 8 4 A A J 5 4
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
10 Pass 1NT 7
What action do you take?
A - Suppose you were in second seat and your right-hand opponent had opened one diamond. You would double for takeout, not so? In effect, that is the position you are in here, and that is the action we recommend.
- Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
A Q 2 7 2 Q 10 8 2 A Q 10 5 4 2
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
10 Pass 1NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A - Do not even consider three no trump with such a tenuous diamond stopper. The correct bid is a false preference to three spades. That allows partner to describe the hand further, perhaps by bidding three no trump with some values in the minors.
- Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
A 5 2 Q Q A K 9 7 6 4 3 A A 5
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A - We are prepared to dispense with aces and ask for one via a Gerber jump to four clubs. The problem is whether to bid a grand slam if partner shows two aces and only two kings when we continue the Gerber ask. On a good day, go for it.
- Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
A 10 9 7 6 5 3 Q 9 3 5 K 8 5 4 5
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
10 Pass 1NT 10
What action do you take?
A - You have a possibly worthless king and nothing more in the way of high cards, but you do have a nice suit and a singleton. The problem with passing is that partner, with quite a good hand, might not act again with only three spades. Bid one spade.
- Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
A A J 6 3 Q J 8 4 8 3 2 K Q 4
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
10 Pass 7 Pass 7
What do you bid now?
A - If you play that a jump raise is a game force, by all means leap to three hearts. If not, you must first bid one spade, then jump to game in hearts at your second turn.

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